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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2011



ABOVE:
Journalist and writer Anwar Shahjahan, and his wife, Nasrin, say they want to be able to visit family and friends in Bangladesh without facing threats.

Barry couple's lives threatened on a visit back to Bangladesh

A BARRY man has vowed to keep producing his on-line Bangladeshi newspaper – despite threats to his life and the lives of his family.

Anwar Shahjahan,

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

aged 38, who has lived in Barry since 2001, covers current affairs issues taking place in the country of his birth, Bangladesh, in a web-based newspaper 'Daily Amader Protidin'.

On a trip back to Bangladesh before Christmas, Anwar and his wife Nasrin, the parents of three children, were subjected to numerous threats, and a ransom demand.

Anwar explained that he has been involved in three main activities in connection with Bangladesh, but does not know which of them sparked the threats.

"I run an online paper which covers news in Bangladesh.

"I have helped to start up a school for an orphanage there called the Shahjahan Academy.

"Another project has been starting a press club for journalists.

"During my visit, criminals were phoning my mobile, making threats against me and my family. They said they would harm us or burn my house down."

Anwar said it was difficult to say why he was a target for the criminals, but explained that in Bangladesh, both journalists and business people were often singled out for intimidation – the former because they might have reported on corruption, the latter because money might be at stake.

His wife Nasrin, aged 36, said that the family had begun to take the threats very seriously during their stay at Anwar's parents' home.

"At 4am one morning men arrived outside the house in a people carrier. There was also a man on a motorbike.

"Fortunately, there were eight or nine men from our family in the

house and when they discovered this, they drove off."

The men who made the threats also demanded a payment of £10,000 to leave the family alone.

Another theory that Anwar and Nasrin have is that somebody has been offended by something he has written in one of the five books he has authored – two of them cover the history of Golapganj.

The couple reported the threats at Golapganj Police Station in Sylhet district on November 10. During the remainder of their visit they were always accompanied by family members, to ensure their safety.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



ABOVE: At one stage, the flames were estimated to be as high as 10 feet.

PHOTOGRAPH by TONY HOPKINS

High Street explosion

by TIM CHAPMAN

FLAMES up to 10 feet high shot out of a drain cover during a bizarre incident in High Street, Barry, on Monday (February 21).

The drama took place just after midday, when there was an underground explosion.

Tim Cottrell, who was the pharmacist on duty at Judith Evans Pharmacy, which is just feet from the drain, told The GEM: "It was about 12.15pm when we heard a big bang. Seconds later, someone popped in to say flames were coming out of the manhole – the cover had moved.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Trapped in Libya

VALE MP Alun Cairns is calling on the Foreign Office to help British people during the unrest in Libya – one Barry resident, Richard Foscolo, is stranded in Ghani, nine hours drive from Tripoli.

Mr Cairns said: "Naturally, the family is anxious and I am calling on the Foreign Office to take a pro-active approach for people in isolated areas... It is essential that action is taken."

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Independent vote a warning for the main parties

AT a recent meeting of the Focus BARRY group, I was asked to write a letter of thanks to the people of the Dyfan ward who voted for Jeff Heathfield in the recent by-election.

This was a huge success for Jeff and recognition of FocusBARRY who supported him. Jeff, the independent candidate, received an incredible 19 per cent of the vote.

This renewed interest in Barry and local politics was generated in part by the awareness created by FocusBARRY and the frenzy of activity from the traditional parties.

Dyfan Ward continues

to face many challenges with the ever increasing threat of further housing development, the lack of investment in the infrastructure of the town and the ongoing traffic problems, a point raised by FocusBARRY at the start of the election campaign.

It now falls to those elected to represent the people by securing what is right for their community and Barry, and not their political masters.

I wish them every success in this challenge but please note, one in five voters, by voting for Jeff as an independent, indicated dissatisfaction with the political parties, the council, and with the decisions being taken in the town.

David Green, Secretary, FocusBARRY

COUNCIL CUTS: MY SOLUTION!

HAVING read 'The GEM' article headed 'Vale Council chiefs ponder £5.7 million package of cuts' by Philip Irwin, I'd like to make a couple of observations.

In the spirit of "all being in this together," it is suggested that £200,000 could be saved at chief officer level but that because the full senior management team is needed over the next 12 months to deal with the "additional work" involved in bringing in the cuts, the £200,000 saving will not be looked at until 2012/2013.

Let's hope things have picked up by then, so that we won't have to lose any of them!

Even more hilarious was the suggestion that £76,000 could be saved by keeping callers waiting longer when telephoning the Vale.

It must be true as 'the report' has collected data over the last four years, which indicates that "customers are happy to wait longer to have their calls answered than at

present". Does ANY-ONE really believe that? I have a couple of money-making ideas they may wish to consider.

1. In relation to the telephone issue, why not make calls to the Vale a premium rate service at, say, £1 per minute?

Callers could then be kept on the line for as long as possible (for maximum revenue) with a series of different options and there is the possible additional "win-win" benefit that they may eventually hang up and not pursue whatever service they were originally after.

Or use an offshore call centre, which may result in lower wage costs; with the additional advantage that you may be greeted in three languages instead of the present two.

2. Why not start a Vale of Glamorgan Scratchcard? Pictures of prominent local dignitaries could be rubbed off and a prize won - e.g. three in a line and you get a season ticket to the leisure centre of your choice - Oh, sorry, there aren't any.

Jon Pearce, Llancarfan

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Key questions for Vale Council tenants over switch to new landlord

VERY shortly, all 4,000 council tenants within the Vale will receive an 'offer document' outlining the pros and cons of becoming part of a new social landlord (Heritage Coast Homes) or staying within the Vale.

The decision tenants make will have an impact on the future of their homes and how they are managed.

There are seven key issues which will determine the best interests of the tenants - some of which will not be addressed at all in the document and some of which will show a simple yes or no solution.

The key issues are as follows:

1. **£15.1 million housing department reserve fund** - over a number of years, the council has systematically syphoned off this money from rental income.

Under normal circumstances, this money would be 'ring-fenced' and could be used only for repairs, maintenance and property improvement.

'Why we urge the voters to say Yes'

ON March 3, there's a referendum to decide if Wales deserves a stronger voice. Over the last decade the Assembly has gradually grown in stature and confidence, but the system for making laws that affect Wales is slow and complicated.

It wastes time and money.

A 'Yes' vote will allow Assembly Members to spend less time talking about procedures and more time focusing on the problems in our communities.

Why should Wales have to wait three years to improve services for people with mental health problems when there is all party agreement within the Assembly that change is

needed. However, the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) guidelines on stock transfer state that any money left in such a reserve fund will stay with the council in the event of an agreed yes vote.

The council argue that they need a large part of this money to take up the shortfall in pension funds of staff who would transfer to a new set-up.

Those employees whose jobs and conditions would be quite rightly guaranteed are employed by the council - not the housing department.

These liabilities therefore belong to the council and not the housing department - and certainly not the tenants.

Did the WAG ever envisage a reserve fund of this size being cynically amassed and retained?

2. **Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS)** - We have already been told that Heritage Coast Homes would borrow £86m to achieve these adequate standards of heating, insulation, kitchens, bathrooms etc, and a further £25m for major

estates work in areas such as Gibbonsdown and Buttrills. The money to be borrowed equates to an average of £21,500 per property and the 'major estates work' equates to an additional £125,000 for each of the 200 (approximately) homes involved.

Please note that in the event of a 'no' vote, the council would be able to borrow only £44m which, along with the £15m reserve fund, would allow them to achieve most of the WHQS.

3. **Anti-social behaviour** - The council has said that if tenants choose to stay with them, they, the council, could not afford a dedicated team to deal with this problem which, without doubt, worries people more than any other issue.

It should be noted that the council is legally required to have an adequate policy and system in place to deal with anti-social behaviour and that in a very recent judgement, the Public Services Ombudsman delivered a very damning indictment of their failures in one particular case.

4. **Day-to-day repairs (after transfer)** - We (the tenants) will be told that 'a man in a van' service to deal with basic repairs would be established by a new landlord - but that the council could not afford this.

The council could use/transfer existing staff and vehicles to achieve this TODAY.

5. **The cost of running Heritage Coast Homes** (salaries, office costs etc) - It is unlikely that

we will be given these budget proposals, but comparable figures (after establishment) for similar organisations would suggest 30 per cent - 35 per cent of income would be needed. This suggests a figure of £5.25m - £6.1m per annum.

6. **The key executives of a new organisation** - It is quite possible that key executives would be recruited from the ranks of existing senior housing department management.

This would mean the same people who have allowed the £15.1m reserve fund to be jeopardised - the same people who have failed totally to deal with anti-social behaviour or implement a simple day-to-day repair service.

7. **The (shadow) board of management** - Are they strong enough to head other than be led?

Will they ensure that every £1 of the projected £106m borrowing is absolutely essential and value for money?

Will they scrutinise every penny of projected running costs?

There are potentially huge advantages attached to having a tenant-empowered association, but the £15.1m reserve fund belongs to the tenants - and the (shadow) board of management must look very closely at (and question) all the projected finances.

Jim McKernan, Penarth

'WE NEED TO CHERISH NHS'

ROBERT BOWYER was absolutely right to praise the efforts of clinical staff in the NHS here in Wales, in last week's GEM.

It is also an opportunity to highlight that any comments I make are not against nurses, doctors or those providing care, who do a first class job in very difficult circumstances.

Such points are aimed

at policy and decision makers, usually politicians - from all parties!

We need to cherish the NHS and support those providing care, but they can only work under the policies and resources made available.

They deserve to be championed and respected and I am grateful to Mr Bowyer for allowing me to clarify the position.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan

'Local Dinas shops need our support'

I WAS very concerned to hear of Tesco's plans to overtake the Castle Oak pub in Dinas Powys into a new 'Express' store.

I, like many traders in the village, have grave concerns over the implications this store will have for the local economy and community spirit.

It is a sad fact of life that wherever Tesco open up a store - and there are very few places these days in which they have not opened up one - local shops such as greengrocers, bakers and butchers all suffer a marked drop in trade.

Last year, my office conducted research which showed that over eight years, 400 shops and other retail units closed at the same time as 157 outlets were opened by the big four supermarkets. This is no coincidence and provides clear evidence that

supermarkets, and Tesco are the biggest of them all, are bad for small, local businesses.

Unfortunately, successive UK Labour Governments did nothing over the last decade-and-a-half to check the rapid growth of supermarkets.

The Con/Dem Coalition government has promised to introduce a supermarket ombudsman, but this is supposed to only make sure suppliers are not taken advantage of.

I'm afraid it will offer scant consolation to the many small shops that are being driven out of business in what is a very uneven contest between big and small business.

I sincerely hope people in Dinas Powys will continue to support local shops during these tough economic times and for many years to come.

Chris Franks, Plaid Cymru AM for South Wales Central.

'No confidence in council efficiency'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council hardly inspire confidence in their efficiency, regarding the latest ballot papers for the referendum.

I recently received my postal voting ballot papers with the warning: 'OPEN AND RETURN IMMEDIATELY' on the external envelope.

As usual, simple plain English instructions seem to be beyond the capability of most members of the civil service. After complicated instructions about signing this, and signing that, and placing this bit inside Envelope A which must be placed inside Envelope B - post paid no less - whoever was responsible has neglected to enclose Envelope B...

So now, one must presume, there has to be further costly printing of more instructions and/or apologies about the over-

sight, and another envelope to enclose the missing Envelope B, more postal costs, and all this in time for postal voters to get their ballot papers back before the March referendum.

Well done, council, you have less than 10 days to achieve this, and I suspect at a considerable further cost to the taxpayer.

Perhaps we should consider a referendum voting for an efficient use of council tax money and for the council to be held accountable to residents for the gross waste of time, effort and money expended yet again over the simplest task.

It makes me wonder if I vote Yes for the Welsh Assembly to make their own decisions about laws governing the country - what can we hope for in the future with this waste of money so typical of our local councils?

Mrs S Power, Cowbridge

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
24 Thur	10.29	8.9	22.48	8.7
25 Fri	11.14	8.3	23.54	8.0
26 Sat			12.35	7.6
27 Sun	01.17	7.6	14.14	7.4
28 Mon	02.50	7.7	15.33	7.8
01 Tues	03.59	8.1	16.28	8.3
02 Wed	04.51	8.7	17.21	8.8
03 Thur	05.41	9.1	17.59	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

'The Colcot sports centre is in danger' claim long-standing members

by TIM CHAPMAN

MEMBERS of the Hammerstrength gym at Colcot sports centre have started a petition against moving equipment to Holm View leisure centre.

Andrew Heffernan, aged 32, who regularly meets up with a group of 12 friends to use gym facilities three or four times a week, said there was "anger and dismay" that equipment was to be relocated elsewhere in the town.

Mr Heffernan explained: "This decision has been taken with little consultation with the individuals and organisations that currently use the Barry sports centre and is a real slap in the face for the people of the Colcot and everyone else from the wider community in Barry who have supported the centre since it was opened in the late sixties."

Barry regeneration cash is to be spent on Holm View, but Mr Heffernan claimed it would be a mistake.

"The decision to spend a regeneration grant on Holm View leisure centre is utter madness. It is off the beaten track compared with the BSC."

"Surely if the council is desperate to spend the regeneration grant it has been given, it only has to spend the money on the one centre in Barry that has been in continuous use since the late sixties and seventies."

"The BSC is located on one of the main roads in and out of Barry. It already has excellent car parking facilities."

"It is currently used seven days a week by a variety of sporting teams and organisations."

"If the facilities of the BSC were upgraded, its



Hammerstrength Gym members are opposed to equipment being relocated to Holm View Leisure Centre.

continuing use would be guaranteed."

Mr Heffernan said he and other users of the centre were starting a petition appealing for the council to have a rethink on where the funds and future investment should go.

"If the centre opens only on week-ends, which seems to be the new council plan, the fabric of its building will be subject to vandalism and the vagaries of the weather and in time it probably have to be demolished."

"Meanwhile, the Holm View leisure centre despite its re-fit would continue to lose huge sums of money for the council just as it is today."

Dave Knevett, operational manager for leisure and tourism at the Vale Council, explained: "The council has been under pressure from the Vale of Glamorgan Football League to provide more changing facilities at the Colcot. An opportunity has arisen via the Barry Regeneration Fund to provide improved gym facilities in the north of Barry."

"Unfortunately, there is not the room to expand the current gym provision at the Colcot, and Holm View is therefore being examined as a possible location."

He stressed: "If the project does progress, the gym facility provided at Holm View will be a significant improvement on the existing facility and

will also free up additional changing facilities at the Colcot for football."

"It is planned to consult users in the very near future once drawings are available. Consultation has already been carried out with the Football League, the largest voluntary organisation in

the Vale, which is supportive of the scheme."

"There are no plans at present to only open this site at weekends as the all-weather pitch and new sports hall will remain fully operational," he concluded.

Tailor cleared of 'groping' charge

A BARRY tailor has been cleared at Cardiff Crown Court of allegations that he committed a sex offence against a young woman who went to the premises where he worked to have a dress altered.

After retiring for one and a half hours, the jury found Mustaf Hajizadeh (25) of Barry not guilty of a charge of sexual assault.

He had earlier told the jury that it was possible the woman made an untrue allegation against him because he had implied that she was overweight.

He said he had fallen on the Koran before giving his evidence and added: "I never lie." Prosecutor Matthew Roberts said that in August, a woman went to Perfects Dry Cleaning and Tailors in Holton Road, Barry, to have alterations made to a dress.

She went with a friend and took the dress with her. She was required to put it on, and stood in the dress as the defendant took measurements.

It was alleged that "she felt him grab her underwear with some force".

Mr Roberts claimed Mr Hajizadeh touched her bottom in a manner which was unacceptable and as she pulled away from him, she saw his hands were trembling.

She decided to report the matter to the police and he was arrested.

In evidence, the woman said that

Hajizadeh touched her legs and bottom and moved her underwear "higher and higher until it became similar to a thong. I jerked away from him and it all ended very quickly," she said.

She told the jury that at one point she "froze" and felt very uncomfortable when she realised she was being "groped". She said: "It was a very intimidating position to be in."

She denied that the defendant was "just doing his job."

She added: "I'm sure it happened, and there is no room in my mind for doubt."

The defendant denied that anything sexual occurred and said that she might have been upset as she paid more for the alterations than her friends, because he had more work to do than on their dresses.

He said he told her she was large and overweight and she took offence.

There was no reason, he said, to touch her underwear.

He also said he had never acted in such a way because he could not afford to lose his job.

Speaking through a Farsi interpreter he said: "I swear that what she said was a lie. I have had a relationship for six years and I didn't need to do this."

He added that in no way had he been "taking a chance".

He also said that he had lost his job.

AJ SICLUNA

Assembly gives Vale Council some extra cash

THE Vale Council is to get an extra £571,548 from the Welsh Assembly to cope with the extra costs triggered by the big freeze in December.

The additional money from the Welsh Assembly Government will assist local authorities to deal with urgent road repairs and refill their salt stock levels.

Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones said: "All across Wales, we have recently experienced some exceptionally cold weather with heavy snow, which has

put unexpected pressures on local authorities' budgets.

"Councils' salt supplies were severely diminished and potholes have developed on many roads."

"This new money will help councils across the country repair their roads and restock their salt supplies."

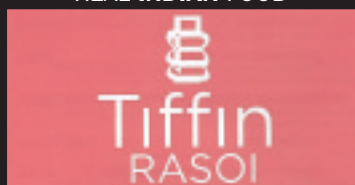
"Despite councils throughout Wales increasing salt stocks in advance of the winter season, the severity and duration of the exceptionally cold weather, combined with the heavy snowfall, had a significant impact on salt reserves."

FoE meets

THE next meeting of Barry & Vale FoE will be on Tuesday, March 1 at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

The Dow Corning incinerator proposal, Rhoose Point issues, Tesco and Sainsbury plans in the Vale and MoD St Athan will be on the agenda. Daffodils and leeks optional!

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Barry couple are threatened

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Anwar said: "I will continue to report on what is happening in Bangladesh. Why should I be stopped from telling the truth?"

Nasrin added: "The country has improved a great deal, but these sorts of things need to be stopped. "I want us to be able to visit Bangladesh with our children and not have to live in fear of this sort of thing."

In 2009, one Bangladesh blog claimed that a total of 29 journalists or writers had been killed in the country in the preceding 16 years. In a recent case, the joint news editor of a Bengali national newspaper and his wife were found in their home with their throats cut.

The Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, who has supported the couple, told The GEM: "I have written to the Government in Bangladesh on behalf of Mr Anwar Shahjahan, as his Assembly Member, to raise my concerns regarding his experiences on a recent visit to Bangladesh."

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NEWS FROM THE BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR

Don hands over reins to Gareth!

New chairman Gareth Roberts added: "I'm proud to accept the chairman's position and look forward to the challenges ahead. In the immediate future, we shall be performing for charity at



Outgoing chairman of Barry Male Voice Choir, Don Surridge (left), congratulates his successor Gareth Roberts.

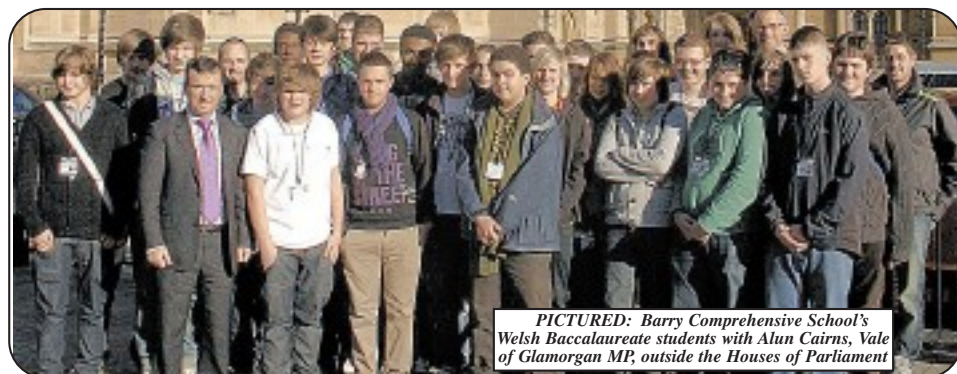
"On April 6, an exciting liaison with Barry Comprehensive School in a joint intergenerational concert will take place. Plans are also in hand for a visit to Fécamp next year, during which we celebrate our 110th anniversary.

NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

The story of the Welsh Arsenal

The authorities were pleased to find that those who flocked to find well-paid employment at the Welsh Arsenal were able to perform with as much skill as their English counterparts and

Meetings are held at 10.30am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. For further details, contact 029 20394881



PICTURED: Barry Comprehensive School's Welsh Baccalaureate students with Alun Cairns, Vale of Glamorgan MP, outside the Houses of Parliament

The group just had time to squeeze in some shopping in Oxford Street before their journey home.

"The pupils' standard of behaviour and their enthusiasm were a credit to the school and Chad Travis managed to win one of the competition prizes."



**YEAR-9 GET DOWN TO WORK
AT CITY HALL IN CARDIFF.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT

Luckily, the rain stopped just in time to hold the event, which consisted of 30 flare torches around the lake, and around 50 candle-lit lanterns which illumi-

Fire has traditionally been used as a symbol of the return of the light to earth, and makes people aware of the

To find out more about Art4U, contact Canon Hill Artspace, or email christie-leat-bowen@live.co.uk, website pending! **CB**

Work to start in Bassett Park

Coun Richard Bertin said: "I look forward to the final completion of the park which will make a real difference to the local community."

MP meets over future of St Athan project

Dr Ian Johnson, the Plaid Cymru candidate in the Assembly elec-

"We must also be kept informed about other issues related to the previous, flawed Metrix plans for St Athan, such as the plans for hundreds of houses on greenfield land in the area, which were a contentious issue at the time of the proposals."



Vale Council explains measures on care for elderly as future role of Bryneithin is raised

The chairman of the 'Friends of Bryneithin Residential Home' believes it should be used for new residents and for respite care so that the Vale Council makes the most of resources.

Last year, residents won a legal challenge to keep the home open for the rest of their lives, but Margot Farbrace said she was keen to see all the available rooms being used.

Mrs Farbrace, whose 90-year-old father Arthur Samuel lives at Bryneithin, claimed: "The Vale Council is still intent on closing it even though there is an onus on the council to be as efficient and effective as possible."

"It has decided that no new residents are to be allowed, even on a temporary contract, and no respite care is to be allowed in this wonderful home."

Mrs Farbrace said it meant the home was losing thousands of pounds of potential revenue because it wasn't being run to its capacity.

She claimed: "They have emptied and closed off 11 bedrooms as well as the large lounge."

Maintenance work has been going on at Bryneithin in recent weeks to bring it up to standards set by the Care Inspectorate for Wales.

Mrs Farbrace said that Ty Dyfan, a home in Barry which had been considered as an option

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

for Bryneithin residents in the event of closure going ahead, was also operating under its capacity.

She explained: "Ty Dyfan, which is owned by Hafod, is half empty too, because the council thought that the residents from Bryneithin would be going there. It is still paying for those empty beds and has been for the last three or four years!"

"This wanton waste of public money is unforgivable in the current climate where frontline services are being cut."

"There are more than 100 people in the Vale and Cardiff on various elderly mentally infirm residential home lists, waiting for the current residents to die before a bed becomes available."

Mrs Farbrace said that there were some people bed blocking in hospital and some families who desperately needed respite care for a relative, but there were only 12 EMI respite beds for the Vale and Cardiff.

Mrs Farbrace said she had a question for Dorothy Turner, the Vale cabinet member for social and care services, who is also the local 'Older People's Champion': "What possible right has the Vale Council got for keeping rooms closed in a home that has been maintained, is staffed, and has room - thereby denying care and quality of life to an ever-growing group of vulnerable people who, through no fault of their

own, fall victim to dementia?"

The Vale Council explained that because facilities in Bryneithin, an Edwardian house, no longer meet changing requirements and expectations, it is still scheduled for closure once it is no longer needed by existing residents.

The council said it is now registered and staffed as a ten-bedded home, and there are nine residents at present.

Lance Carver, the new head of adult services in the Vale, said: "Ty Dyfan in Barry is now the main specialist residential care home in the Vale for older people with dementia-related illnesses. Work to equip the home for taking on this specialist role has been completed. Two of the units at Ty Dyfan are fully occupied. This includes provision for respite."

"The council has submitted a proposal to Hafod Care Association (which runs the home) and the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to make use of the additional space to create a step-up/step down residential re-ablement facility on the site - a residential home which provides short-term intensive rehabilitation for older people who have been in hospital or experienced a crisis in their own home."

"This will help to meet the challenges of increasing demand and changing ideas about appropriate models of care."

Coun Turner, Vale cabinet member for social and care services, stressed that investment in dementia services had increased this year: "The council is taking many other steps to deal with the need for additional services from older people with dementia-related illnesses, as the population ages."

"We have increased and are increasing the number of designated EMI placements available in our own residential care homes, and in places funded by the council in other residential and nursing homes."

"We have commissioned an independent study to establish the need for residential and nursing care placements. The council is leading a project, which also involves Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Cardiff Council, to ensure that we are able to meet this need."

"The project includes creating a bed bureau, available on-line, which will help people to find an appropriate place in homes across the Vale and Cardiff."

"Despite being in the fourth year of a significant overall savings programme for social services, we have increased overall investment in dementia services this year."

"This has enabled us to increase capacity in community-based services for older people with dementia-related illnesses, including intermediate care, occupational therapy and telecare services."



Village's efforts bring big cheque to Forces' charity!

THE people of Colwinston have devoted the last few months to fundraising for the charity Help for Heroes, and their efforts were celebrated at a cheque presentation last week.

The villagers were inspired to work for the charity after Ross Moore, the son of a local man, was shot and injured in Afghanistan.

Ross has made a complete recovery, and receiving the cheque in a presentation at the Sycamore Tree was his final duty before rejoining his unit out in Cyprus.

One of the local fund raisers, Alun Austin, told THE GEM: "The village has always chosen a charity to benefit from events throughout the year."

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"Ross's parents, Ann and Mike, live in the village and, when we heard that Ross had been injured, we decided that this year's charity would be Help for Heroes."

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The village's New Year's Day events also helped, with an auction in the pub, as well as the proceeds of the 'swede rolling' - a tradition that is a little safer than the

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All present and correct on dining-in night at HMS Cambria!



NEWS FROM 372 (BARRY) SQUADRON - AIR TRAINING CORPS

70th anniversary dining-in night proves a huge success



Eloise Johnson, who was presented with the NCO of the Year trophy.

RECENTLY, 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps held their 70th anniversary dining-in night at HMS Cambria, with over 90 officers, instructors, cadets and ex-cadets attending.

The cadets and squadron staff were joined by several guests, including: Dr Peter Beck (Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan), Wing Commander Lyndon Jones (MOD St Athan), Mr Doug Provis (a founder cadet of 372 Squadron in 1941) and

Flight Lieutenants John Greenow and Dave Crandon, former Commanding Officers of 372 Squadron.

The Mr Vice on the night was Cadet James Harris (13) the youngest and newest cadet on the squadron. James' responsibility on the night was to assist the Commanding Officer with the smooth running of the evening and to entertain the guests after dinner.

After dinner, Wing Commander Jones gave an entertaining speech on his close liaison with 372 Squadron over the years; he also presented

the annual NCO of the Year trophy Corporal Eloise Johnson for her hard work and dedication during the last year.

The cadets thoroughly enjoyed the annual dining in night, learning about the traditions upheld within the Royal Air Force.

Cadet Peter Pemberton said: "At first, I was really nervous about the evening and all the traditions. It was great fun and I can't wait until next year's dining in night".

The cadets are now looking forward to an action packed and challenging training programme including flying, gliding, shooting, sport, hill craft, Duke of Edinburgh and leadership training in what promises to be another busy and exciting year ahead.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. Contact 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org
JASON HORTON
(Officer Commanding)

Special police unit is set up to work with Vale offenders

POLICE in the Vale are putting together a special unit to tackle persistent offenders,

Home Office data shows that out of a total number of offenders, approximately 10 per cent of these offenders are responsible for committing 50 per cent of all crime.

These particular offenders are referred to as Prolific and Priority Offenders and the Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) scheme was set up by the Home Office in 2004 to ensure

that they are being actively targeted and managed.

This is done by providing extensive support services to tackle their offending behaviour. The news that the unit was being set up was revealed in a Vale Council report.

The unit will be named 'Gobaith' (Hope in Welsh) because it does not stigmatise the offenders and will be based at Barry Police Station in Gladstone Road.

The unit will be staffed by a dedicated Police Officer, Probation

Officer and a "lifestyle" worker, and will work with 25 prolific and other priority offenders who have been identified as suitable for the service by the PPO operational group.

The service will be 75 per cent funded by the Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF) from the Welsh Assembly – a contribution of £22,500.

The remaining 25 per cent, £7,500, is funded by Crime Reduction and Anti Social Behaviour (CRASB) from the Home Office.

Council may charge for giving planning advice

THE Vale Council is considering charging for 'pre-application advice' – a service that it has always supplied for free.

However, a two-tier system will see major developments pay more than minor ones, while 'householder' applications will not attract a fee.

A major development is defined as one consisting of 10 or more dwellings, or on buildings with a floorspace of more than 1,000 square metres.

Applications that need specialist advice, such as wind farms, will also be classed as major.

Under the proposed system, developers will get written advice at a cost of £300, or one per cent of the eventual fee when an application is lodged, whichever is the greater.

An hour-long meeting, with written confirmation, will attract a fee of £600, or 1.5 per cent of the eventual fee.

When it comes to 'minor developments', there are a number of examples given. A new residential development of one to nine dwellings will be classed as minor.

So will residential conversions involving change of use to more than one dwelling.

Anything in the minor development category will attract a charge of £200 for written advice, with £300 charged for an hour meeting plus written advice.

The council has analysed the type of planning applications it receives and in 2009/10, only three per cent related to 'major' developments.

However, 27 per cent of the applications were classed as 'minor' – so fees would be charged on all these.

A total of 61 per cent of the applications were 'householder' while 11 per cent were classed as 'other'.

The proposals were contained in a report that was considered by the

cabinet of the Vale Council on Monday (February 21).

The report stated: "Charges would not apply to the provision of advice relating to householder development, heritage proposals, council proposals or partnership/joint venture enterprise, town and community council proposals, developments necessitated as a consequence of permitted development rights being removed, District Valuer's queries, tree advice or a development for a non-profit making community facility scheme by a registered charity or voluntary sector organisation."

CREATION STORY

ALL Saints church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service on Sunday, February 27 at 10am, focused on the Creation story.

The worship will include items suitable for all ages, and refreshments will be served afterwards.

All are welcome.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123 (2A)

Land immediately adjacent to the Café, Porthkerry Park Barry

Notice is hereby given that Vale of Glamorgan Council intends to dispose of land having an area of approximately 100 square metres immediately adjacent to the Café at Porthkerry Park which forms part of an open space for use as a decked area ancillary to the use of the café.

Objections to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to:

Director of Legal Public Protection & Housing Services ref C07-0327
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU
by no later than 3rd March 2011

Dated the 17th day of February 2011
P H Evans
Director of Legal Public Protection & Housing Services

PACT meetings

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, March 1 at 7pm.

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community and Learning Centre, March 4 at 2pm.

COURT PACT, Scout Hall, Ilminster Close, Barry, March 10 at 7pm.
WENVOE coffee and chat meeting, Wenvoe Arms, February 24 at 11am.

ST ATHAN PACT, The Gathering Place, March 1 at 7.30pm.

CRAIG PENLLYN coffee and chat meet-

ing, Barley Mow public house, March 2 at 11am.

RHOOSE PACT, Fox & Hounds public house, Llancafarn, march 6 at 3pm.

ST ATHAN PACT, The Gathering Place, March 6 from 2pm-4pm.

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY coffee and chat meeting, Three Horseshoes public house, March 7 at 11am.

PLYMOUTH PACT, March 9 in Brockhill Way Community Centre at 7pm.

CLASSY CUTS

by Chris Amos
Fully Qualified Dog Groomer

Scissor cuts, clipping, nails, ears and glands – all carried out in a calm, relaxing, specialised grooming area

120 Lougher Place, St Athan
Tel. 07535 779493
or 01446 751737



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PREMIUM QUALITY BRANDS AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES
Two floors with a comprehensive display of appliances and accessories. Factory refurbished and brand new appliances in stock.
Built-in ovens, hobs, dishwashers, washing machines, fridge freezers, Range Cookers - gas, electric, LPG and dual fuel in stainless steel and farmhouse styles!
LCD & Plasma TV's now in stock and on display. Also all accessories - Hdmi leads, set top boxes, etc. - all at the lowest prices around!!
OPEN: Monday - Saturday 9am - 5.30pm
3A TYNEWYDD ROAD, KING SQUARE, BARRY (opposite new library)
Also large warehouse & showroom at **252 HOLTON RD, BARRY** (Bassett End)
Prices constantly checked to make sure **WE ARE THE CHEAPEST**
All In Stock! - Ready to Go! Same/Next Day Delivery Service!
Full Repair Service and up to 5 years manufacturers warranty
Telephone: 01446 730884
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FORMER FIRST MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO VALE...

'Voting No would show Westminster that Wales does not count' – says Rhodri Morgan

DURING a speech in Barry on Friday, February 18, Wales' former First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, told representatives of the Vale community that a 'yes' vote in the referendum on March 3 would demonstrate the confidence of Welsh people in their abilities within the democratic process.

Mr Morgan warned that if people voted 'no' it would be sending a message to Westminster that "we don't count".

Currently, Assembly Members have to ask for permission from London before they can pass laws in areas that are already the responsibility of the Assembly.

Mr Morgan, and those backing the 'Yes for Wales' campaign, argue that if the country is given the flexibility of being able to make lawful changes in existing devolved areas, it will save time, expense, and lead to quicker progress on vital issues.

Speaking to people from the public, private and voluntary sectors, and councillors at Vale AM Jayne Hutt's spring breakfast in Barry College, Mr Morgan insisted:

"The issue at stake is really about what kind of view people in Wales have about their abilities in the democratic process.

"Getting these powers will mean cutting the apron strings with Westminster.

"We are not talking about wider areas, but deeper powers in devolved areas."

He said that in the days when devolution had been debated 'no' campaigners had predicted that it would cause conflicts between north and south Wales, valleys and coastal towns, Welsh speaking people and non-Welsh speaking people, that it would represent the worst about Wales and lead to "jobs for the boys" – predictions which had all failed to materialise.

Mr Morgan said: "I think we disproved most of those canards.

"Another canard by the business community was that it would cost jobs, but that was disproved because there are now another 120,000 jobs despite a recession."

Mr Morgan said that the UK Government took account of Scotland and Northern Ireland, and that it was up to Wales to fight for its profile too, otherwise the view from Westminster would be: "Don't worry about Wales – they don't count."

Jane Hutt AM illustrated why she thought it was important that people voted 'Yes' by highlighting two areas in which the powers would

have helped.

She told The GEM: "We have just passed an important law to ensure that all new homes are fitted with fire sprinklers, thanks to Ann Jones AM, who worked in the Fire Service before she became an Assembly Member.

"We all backed this new law, which makes Wales the first in the world to make fire sprinklers mandatory in new homes, but it took three and a half years to get it on the statute book.

"We have also been hampered in supporting Stuart's Campaign to introduce new laws to make school transport safer, because of the time it has taken to get permission from Westminster to pass laws in areas of policy we are responsible for in Wales.

"We need to put this right and we can do that by voting Yes on March 3, to speed up our law-making powers, without having them to be considered in Westminster – which slows the process down."

The 'law-making' referendum will be held on Thursday, March 3. To be able to vote, people must be registered. Information is available at www.electoral-commission.co.uk

Roadworks check

Cardiff Road, from Merrie Harrier junction to Barry – temporary traffic control.

Romilly Road/Canon Street, Barry – temporary traffic control.

The Broadshoard, Cowbridge – temporary traffic control.



Rhodri Morgan AM has been criss-crossing Wales in recent weeks to speak to people about the forthcoming referendum, and last week he was with colleague Jane Hutt AM at her annual Spring break-fast event held at Barry College.

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Welsh-speaking Mot the dog is an Internet star!

MOT, the 'Welsh-speaking' dog is an internet star - after being chosen to raise awareness of services available in Welsh in Barry.

Mot was selected by the Welsh Language Board to headline its 'Using Welsh' campaign and has quickly become a firm favourite online with his amusing clip which can now be viewed at cicymraeg.com.

The clip shows Mot going into a butcher's shop and barking at the butcher, only to be shooed out of the shop. The next day Mot returns and gets what he came for (a bagful of juicy sausages) after eventually 'speaking' to the butcher in Welsh.

Meri Huws, chair of the Welsh Language Board, said: "There are thousands of people out there who can speak Welsh, but not everyone knows where they can use Welsh in their everyday lives."

"We'd like to see people choosing to use Welsh wherever possible. We wanted to create an entertaining video clip that shows Welsh language services are available when you see the 'Working Welsh' sign or badge."

"Hopefully, Mot's video clip will resonate with all generations, in particular young adults. There have been iconic and much loved figures such as Salem the cat, Babe, Aleksandr the Meerkat and Mister Ed, but to our knowledge, Mot is the first Welsh-speaking animal out there!"

"The online campaign follows the Welsh Language Board's national 'Iaith Gwaith' or 'Working Welsh' badge scheme, which promotes Welsh language services."

"The badge can be worn by members of staff who deal directly with the public to show that they can speak Welsh. Badges are available free of charge to businesses and organisations, and have been adopted by tens of thousands of businesses, shops, museums and other organisations across Wales."

"The badge, which is orange and shaped like a speech mark, is designed to help cus-

tomers identify Welsh speaking staff; offer customers a service in their preferred language straight away; build a business brand by showing that it recognises and values staff who are bilingual and to develop employees' Welsh language communication skills."

To see the Welsh Language Board's Mot the Dog, visit cicymraeg.com

Ci Cymraeg yn Seren y Rhynggrwyd

MAE ci sy'n 'siarad' Cymraeg wrthi'n creu cynnwrf ar y rhynggrwyd ar ôl serennu mewn ymgyrch i dynnu sylw at wasanaethau Cymraeg.

Dewiswyd Mot y ci croesfrit o Ystrad Mynach gan Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg i serennu yn ei ymgyrch 'Defnyddio'r Gymraeg' a dros nos fe ddaeth yn ffefryn mawr mewn clip fideo ar-lein sydd i'w dangos ar cicymraeg.com. Mae'r clip yn dangos Mot yn mynd i mewn i siop cigydd gan gyfarth ar y cigydd ond yn cael ei hel allan o'r siop. Y diwrnod nesaf mae Mot yn dychwelyd ac mae'n cael llond bag o selsig ar ôl iddo gyfarth ar y cigydd yn y Gymraeg.

Meddai Meri Huws, Cadeirydd Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg: "Mae miloedd o bobl yn gallu sy'n siarad Cymraeg ond dyw pob un ohonyn nhw ddim yn gwybod lle gallan nhw ddefnyddio'u Cymraeg yn eu bywydau pob dydd. Fe hoffwn i weld pobl yn dewis defnyddio'u Cymraeg pryd bynnag mae'n bosibl."

"Roedden ni eisiau creu clip fideo difyr i dynnu sylw at y ffaith fod gwasanaethau Cymraeg ar gael pan welwch chi'r bathodyn neu'r poster 'Iaith Gwaith'."

"Gobeithio y bydd clip fideo Mot yn boblogaidd gyda phawb, yn arbennig felly



ABOVE: Mot on camera for his starring Welsh role!

gyda phobl ifanc. Hyd y gwyddom ni Mot yw'r anifail cyntaf sy'n siarad Cymraeg, ond mae Mot yn ymuno â ffifyrau eiconig a chariadus eraill fel Salem y gath, Babe, Aleksander y Swicat (meerkat) a Mister Ed.

Mae'r ymgyrch ar-lein yn tynnu sylw at y bathodyn 'Iaith Gwaith', sef cynllun cenedlaethol i hyrwyddo wasanaethau Cymraeg. Gall staff sy'n delio'n uniongyrchol â'r cyhoedd wsgo'r bathodyn i ddangos y gallan nhw siarad Cymraeg. Mae'r bathodyn ar gael am ddim i fusnesau a sefydliadau, ac mae'n cael ei ddefnyddio gan ddegau o ffoedd o fusnesau, siopau, amgueddfeidd a chyrff eraill ledled Cymru.

Bwriad y bathodyn siâp swigen siarad oren yw helpu cwsmeriaid i adnabod staff sy'n gallu cynnig gwasanaeth i gwsmeriaid yn eu dewis iaith yn syth. Mae'r bathodyn yn ychwanegu at werth y busnes trwy ddangos ei fod cynnabod ac yn gwerthfawrogi staff dwyieithog ac sy'n datblygu sgiliau cyfathrebu yn yr iaith Gymraeg.

SOS for volunteers

THE British Heart Foundation Cymru urgently needs fundraising volunteers, admin volunteers and others to help with local bucket collections.

Contact your local fundraising office on 029 2038 2408 and help save lives.

Court turns down the Flying Vet's request for case to be re-heard

by AJ SICLUNA

AN application by Vale 'Flying Vet' Maurice Kirk to set aside a conviction for assault and to have a re-hearing of the case, has been refused at Cardiff Magistrates Court.

Mr Kirk (65), formerly of St Donats, now living in Brittany, who did not appear before the court, was said to be suffering extreme pain with hip conditions, and to be taking large amounts of morphine sulphate to counteract it.

The application was made by his solicitor, Vincent Murphy.

Cardiff Stipendiary Magistrate John Charles refused to grant it and told Mr Murphy that there was a warrant for the arrest of Mr Kirk in existence.

Mr Murphy said that at the hearing last November when Mr Kirk was not present, medical evidence had been presented to the court, but at a late stage.

No representations whatsoever were made on Mr Kirk's behalf.

"He is unable to travel because of his medical condition. He has other matters before other courts which have been adjourned because of that."

"There have also been civil proceedings," he said.

Mr Kirk, he continued, was awaiting an operation on a seriously damaged hip and he produced to the court a report from a French doctor.

Said the magistrate: "I don't speak French, and you haven't produced a translation."

Mr Murphy said that one report had suggested the possibility of brain damage and said that he had had a brain scan in France and if circumstances permit, he will be operated on the hip there.

"He had good reason for not attend-

ing the court, but he was convicted."

"He does not seek to avoid his cases, and he wants all matters resolved. Once his hip is repaired, and he can travel, he will be able to produce his defence, and there is a witness concerning the alleged assault."

Research into lost rail lines

I am researching a BBC Cymru Wales TV series about the lost railway lines of Wales and am especially interested in speaking to people who worked on and used the lines that were axed after the Beeching Report in the 1960s.

Drivers, firemen, signal men, booking clerks, crossing-keepers, were among the many employees who worked the lines of Wales in the age of steam.

The lines connected many communities for family visits, shopping, school, work and holidays. Whether for courting couples, wedding parties or honeymooners, the lines made possible a way of life paced by departure and arrival times at stations and halts.

If you have memories of life along a railway line axed during the Beeching cuts, please contact me:

Andy Attenburrow, (Testimony Films, PO Box 55, Llangollen, Denbighshire, LL20 9AX, or andy.attenburrow@testimonyfilms.co.uk m or phone 02921251045).

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Llantwit students are joined by Vale AM at engineering workshops



YEAR-9 students at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School had an interested visitor, Vale AM Jane Hutt, at workshops held by Aberthaw Power Station recently.

The AM commented: "It was great to see the year-9 students respond

positively to the practical tasks, exercises and challenges which make science and engineering more attractive as key subjects to study.

"The young people who came to the school, including a former pupil, were great role models for the pupils who are deciding on their options for GCSEs. STEM subjects are so important and I congratulate Npower from Aberthaw and the Llantwit Major school for creating this opportunity and clearly motivating the students."

Jane Hutt and the students at Aberthaw.

UNDER FIRE IN AFGHANISTAN – a local soldier's amazing story

EARLIER in this week's GEM, we told the story, of how a local soldier, Ross Moore, inspired Colwinston residents to raise money for Help the Heroes. Before rejoining his unit, he recalled the experience of coming under fire.

EVER since the UK found itself involved in the war in Afghanistan, there has been a steady flow of reports of dead and badly injured soldiers.

There have been funerals in the area, and the bitter truth is that those soldiers can no longer speak for themselves.

Ross Moore, however, is in the position of knowing how close he came to death – and is going back to continue his service in the army.

His comrades saved his life, and he feels a duty to them – a feeling that is constant among soldiers, irrespective of whether the general population back home approves of the conflict.

He told The GEM about the day he was shot, and about the fractions of an inch that made the difference between life and death.

Ross, a former pupil at Brynateg Comprehensive School, joined up in February 2009, and after six months training in Catterick, passed out and joined his unit, B Company (Rorke's Drift), the 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh, as a rifleman.

Training continued with Afghanistan in mind, and his unit were sent to Canada, where Afghan villages have been built to make the training experience as realistic as possible.

Ross's unit was eventually posted to Helmand province, but in a relatively quiet sector. After five months, and with just a few weeks to go before the unit finished their tour of duty, they had suffered no casualties.

That was until the 'routine' patrol where Ross became their first casualty. He said: "We were to check out a series of Afghan village compounds where there had been reports of Taliban activity, and we were met with a very warm welcome."

"We were working with the Afghan National Police, and there were lots of children around, which is always a reassuring sign."

However, the patrol was required to move, if possible, through about three different village compounds, and at times the only way to get from one point to another was via a narrow alleyway. It was these alleyways that the soldiers were trained to avoid if possible.

Ross said: "The warm welcome changed a bit when we found a large stash of marijuana – something that the insurgents use to finance their activities."

PHILIP IRWIN reports

However, the patrol was required to move, if possible, through about three different village compounds, and at times the only way to get from one point to another was via a narrow alleyway. It was these alleyways that the soldiers were trained to avoid if possible.

Ross said: "The warm welcome changed a bit when we found a large stash of marijuana – something that the insurgents use to finance their activities."

"When we found this, the Afghan Police started to look a lot more nervous. Nevertheless, we moved onto the next compound, and it was my turn to be lead man in the column."

In the next few minutes, two things happened that made Ross and his comrades in arms believe that they had been led into a trap.

He found himself faced with the choice of whether to go down an alleyway where there were a crowd of village children playing at the far end.

Good practice said that the best way to proceed was to by-pass the alley by going through the adjoining houses, and emerging at the far end of the alley.

Ross said: "When we tried to do this, we found a room full of Afghan women."

Cultural sensitivity training had stressed to the soldiers that bargaining through a room full of women was frowned upon, so it was back to the alley.

Ross said: "As I advanced up the alley, the children who were playing suddenly ran away. I got on the radio to my platoon commander to say that I didn't like the look of this, but then the guns started firing!"

"I felt as if I had been punched on my arm, and found myself on the ground. I wasn't in pain, but I instinctively felt that I had to lie flat and look for cover."

He found cover in the form of a ditch and, realising that he couldn't use his right arm, he fired off some rounds with his left arm.

Ross explained: "I wasn't aiming at anyone. I didn't know where they were, but it made them keep their heads down, and it let my fellow soldiers know that I was still conscious."

"Later, when we analysed what had happened, it seemed to us that the Taliban had botched the ambush. It was a mistake to shoot at the first man in the column."

"If they had waited, they could have fired on the second and third men, and I would have been totally isolated."

However, thanks to the covering fire from his comrades, Ross was able to crawl along the ditch, keeping his head down despite the presence of thorns and brambles. When he finally reached the medics, they discovered he was bleeding profusely.

He said: "Up until then, I had been running on adrenaline, but now I started to feel faint."

The bullet in his arm had made a small entry wound, but a much larger exit wound, which was bleeding profusely, so medical staff applied a tourniquet.

A Warrior armoured vehicle took him back at high speed to base, from where a helicopter took him to Camp Bastion.

Two operations followed, where the wound was cleaned up, double checked for infection (a necessity, because of the Taliban's habit of putting excrement on their bullets) and finally stitched up.

It was only then that Ross was able to call his platoon commander and compare notes.

He said: "The feeling was that the first burst of fire came from three directions, so I was lucky that only one bullet hit me."

There was another shock in store for Ross when his platoon commander told him that his



back pack had been shot to pieces by around a dozen bullets!

Ross said: "I was never aware of any of those hits. I think that some must have happened when I was lying flat, keeping my head down, so they must have passed a couple of inches over my head and then passed through the back pack."

By the time this article appears, Ross will be back with his unit in Cyprus. He was very matter of fact about his brush with death, and listening to the story were his mother, Anne, and his father, Mike, who live in Colwinston and whose local is the Sycamore Tree.

I asked how they felt, listening to their son recall his encounter with Taliban fighters, and they were, it has to be said, remarkably matter of fact.

Anne was a nurse, and Mike an ambulance man, so they are both familiar with trauma and with how the human body can recover from injuries.

For both mum and dad, it was a proud moment to see Ross accept the cheque on behalf of Help The Heroes.

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Hospital's evening to discuss cosmetic surgery

VALE Healthcare is inviting prospective clients to a cosmetic surgery evening, concentrating on breast surgery, at the Vale Hospital in Hensol Park.

The open evening, on Tuesday, March 29, at 6.30pm, will cover breast augmentation, breast uplift, breast reduction, non-surgical breast treatments, and all other breast surgery.

A spokeswoman said: "This event provides an opportunity to hear consultant surgeons talk about the procedures available, and the kind of things to consider if you are thinking about breast surgery."

"The evening will also give an exclusive opportunity to have a 10 minute 'mini-consultation' with one of the surgeons, which is completely free of charge."

"Our stunning hospital is located in 3.4 acres of rural parkland, and we believe it boasts the best cosmetic surgeons in south Wales."

To book a place, contact Laura Dunning on 01443 449 272 or email laura.dunning@vale-healthcare.com. Please advise if you would like to book in for a mini consultation and mention The GEM.

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180th anniversary of the Frolic steamer disaster

AN entry in the burial records of Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge, reads: **Mary Henderson, Bangeston, St Mary's Parish, Pembroke, buried March 23, 1831, age 19 - "This young lady was drowned off Marcross at the wreck of the Frolic steam packet."**

The following entry: Thomas Henderson, buried May 3, 1831, age 20 - "This young man was brother to the above, and was lost in the same wreck".

The curate, Thomas Edmondson, performed both ceremonies. They both lie in the graveyard together to this day. The same sad details are to be found around the parishes of the Vale, Hester Turner, age 25, St

Athan, Thomas Benjamin, age 16, Llantwit Major, and many more with entries which record: "Washed up on the sea shore, male, name unknown".

Many victims of the worst passenger disaster in the maritime history of the Bristol Channel were never found.

The event was the loss of the *Frolic* packet steamer en route from Haverfordwest to Bristol.

Some 78-80 passengers and crew were lost and not one soul survived to tell the tale of the events leading up to the catastrophe.

Communities in south Pembrokeshire were devastated by the news, as were families of the crew, mainly from Bristol.

The sense of despair was also felt in the Vale, as relatives and friends spent days walking about the Vale coastline in search of the victims.

by Brian Keitch

Bodies came ashore over many months from Southerndown in the west to Cadoxton in the east - many beyond recognition.

All agreed that something had to be done once and for all to prevent such a tragedy happening again.

Ironically, only a year before a petition had been organised around the Bristol Channel ports to the Brethren of Trinity House to provide lights to prevent such a calamity from occurring - but there were influential objectors to the cost of any provision.

After the loss of the *Frolic*, Trinity House responded to the outcry by building not one, but two lighthouses on Nash Point, opened within 12 months of the tragedy.

The paddle packet steamer *Frolic* was built at Greenock in 1827 by John Scott & Co for the Glasgow to Belfast service.

Perhaps she was too small for this expanding trade because, in 1830, she was lengthened by six-and-a-half feet and sold south to the Bristol Steam Navigation Company for use on the west Wales run.

It was largely at the instigation of Lieutenant Edward Jenkins RN of Haverfordwest that the service commenced on Thursday, October 14, 1830, departing Bristol at 4pm.

Compared with the sailing vessels which had previously plied these routes, *Frolic* seemed positively luxurious.

The ship provided cabin accommodation, a

dining room and even a female stewardess for lady passengers.

Being powered by steam, *Frolic* could boast a timetable to adhere to.

With a speed of about 10 knots, she could make the journey to or from Bristol in about 10 hours.

The alternative was the stage coach and a risky crossing of the River Severn at Beachley.

Her arrival on Friday, October 15, at Haverfordwest was met with a celebration hitherto never seen there - she was the first steamer to be based there.

Furthermore, *Frolic* was to maintain a year round service, calling at Tenby and other locations such as Milford and Pater (Pembroke Dock).

Frolic quickly acquired a keen following. She was a very pretty vessel with a schooner rig and a harlequin figurehead.

In November, she added Carmarthen to her ports of call. She was the preferred way to travel to Bristol, where merchants from west Wales did much of their business.

By March 1831, she seemed very well established on the route - having come through the winter and there was the prospect of additional excursion work in the coming summer months. The March 15, 1831, sailing was advertised as a 7am departure from the Quay, Haverfordwest.

In addition, Captain Jenkins had every reason to be pleased - there were more passengers booked on this voyage than on any to date.

There was a delegation of top merchants from Haverfordwest and Milford, and a large contingent of senior army personnel from Tenby (including Gen McCleod, 1st Royal Regiment of Foot, Col Gordon of the Queen's Bays and Major Boyd - all with family and servants). The *Frolic* was due in Bristol the same evening.

March gales are not uncommon on our coastline and this was just such an occasion.

It would appear that sea conditions were sufficiently bad for the ship to remain stormbound - probably in Milford Haven. The morning tide of March 16 was also lost.

Pressure must have been mounting on Captain Jenkins.

Merchants had meetings to attend, many passengers were on their way to London. Hoping, no doubt, that the weather would moderate, Captain Jenkins finally



Nash Sands

made for Bristol in the evening. He knew that any further delay would also cause problems with the return sailing due from Bristol on March 18.

Meanwhile, unbeknown to the commander a drama was unfolding up channel at Breaksea Point, Aberthaw, where the sailing vessel *Diligence* had been blown ashore and wrecked, though its skipper, Captain Shadock and crew made it ashore safely.

Lloyd's register of wrecks records strong south west/westerly gales. Far from moderating, the gale increased to storm force.

Captain Jenkins and

his crew were sailing into the night. He had to avoid the Helwick Sands, the Mixon Sands, the Scarweather Sands and Tusker Rock, and above all - the six-and-a-half mile long Nash Sands to round Nash Point and relative safety.

The last lighthouse en route was Mumbles - no use for the remainder of the journey. A combination of wind and incoming tide needed to push *Frolic* a degree or so to port and the Nash Sands awaited.

In Bristol, Mr H W Hartnell recalled: "I will remember her failing to arrive on the forenoon tide, and my waiting expected her arrival at the Hotwells



Nash Lighthouse

late in the evening, when a report came up from Pill that she had gone on the Nash Sands the previous night, which was fully confirmed by the boats and craft sent down Channel".

The scene was one of devastation. The Captain of the packet steamer *Bristol*, en route from Swansea, reported being impeded by wreckage - a ship's boiler and machinery on the sands and a paddle box on the shore.

Later the Cork packet *City of Bristol* reported the same scene, with bedding and stores all over the Nash Passage.

It was soon clear there were no survivors. A young woman was found on the beach with a child clasped in her hands, the captain was lashed to a spar with a young boy.

His watch had stopped at just before 4am, at about which time the disaster is

thought to have happened.

Mary Henderson was found on the beach with her suitcases nearby - did she try to use them to float ashore?

Bodies were washed up for months afterwards - some in groups which suggest they were trapped in the wreckage until it finally broke up.

March 17 is the occasion of the 180th anniversary of this most melancholy event in the history of the Vale and it is intended to hold a meeting at Nash Point at about midday to commemorate the event and all who have lost their lives along our coastline.

Trinity House has made Nash Lighthouse available and anyone interested in participating in this meeting should contact me at brian_keitch2002@hotmail.com or text me on 07982862671.

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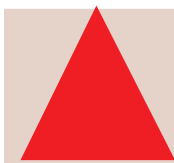
No, we pay meticulous attention to the water condition, which is tested and treated continuously. Our Treatment tank contains a huge bacteria area with filter and strong UV sterilizer, which efficiently and accurately kills bacteria and pathogens.

Are there any conditions that are not suitable for this treatment?

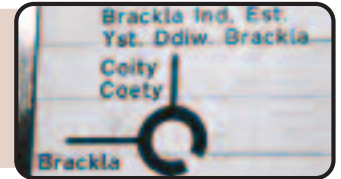
Yes. Feet with verrucas will not be able to be treated. Other contra-indications include any viral skin diseases, HIV and Hepatitis.

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CANOLFAN BRACKLA TRIANGLE Links Bridgend's Traders... Brackla BUSINESS Profile



BUSINESS PLAYING A FULL PART AS THE BRACKLA COMMUNITY KEEPS GROWING!

WITH a population estimated at just over 12,000, the only thing stopping Brackla declaring itself to be a town is the fact that it is so close to Bridgend.

After all, its total of five primary schools and one secondary is much bigger than Cowbridge or Llantwit Major can boast – and it is almost as many as Porthcawl!

Politically, this was acknowledged almost 30 years ago when Bridgend Town Council let it go, and Brackla Community Council was created.

Nevertheless, the mindset of people in the area is still to see Brackla as a suburb of Bridgend, rather than a thriving community in

its own right. However, the business community is quicker to catch on, and traders are increasingly finding Brackla to be a great place to attract new customers, while at the same time benefiting from a strong local client base.

After all, with 5,000 houses in the 'town', traders are not short of customers. It means that a thriving shopping centre has developed at Brackla Triangle, and the community now boasts all the essentials – modern dental, vets, and GP practices, some fine takeaway shops, and three pubs!

On the spiritual side, six churches meet regularly in Brackla as well, and the local community centre is always busy.

The area's upwardly mobile profile recently prompted Robbie Edwards, of Edwards

Machinery, which specialises in farm machinery servicing and sales, to move across to Brackla from a Bridgend industrial estate.

He told The GEM: "It was a big move, but now we have a new premises with new stores. We feel it is a great place to do business."

Most places can say that they have changed over the years, but for Brackla that change is more marked than most.

After all, at the end of the Second World War, it was a massive industrial complex, responsible for keeping the Allied war effort supplied with munitions.

Those days are long gone, and Brackla continues to grow and develop its own community identity, with local businesses bringing employment and playing a full part in that process.

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Mr Diamond stated that he was very proud that Richard had decided to take over where he had left off, and that Bridgend county was possibly the only area with this unique father and son, second generation of locksmiths and double glazing repair specialists.

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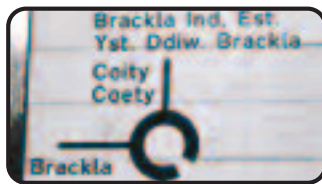
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CANOLFAN BRACKLA TRIANGLE
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Brackla BUSINESS Profile



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COUNCIL BITES THE BULLET WITH 3.3 PER CENT TAX RISE

by **PHILIP
IRWIN**

COUNCIL tax in the Vale is set to rise by 3.3 per cent, after the proposal was accepted by the senior councillors who make up the cabinet.

It means that the Vale Council will be charging residents in a band D home the sum of £923.85, a rise of £29.52 from the previous year.

The proposal will, of course, have to be accepted at a meeting of the full Vale Council next week.

Two further sums will be added to that council tax bill. The larger is that charged by South Wales Police, who have opted for a five per cent rise from last year.

This means that a band D household will pay £161.35 as its contribution to police services.

Finally, most households in the Vale will

receive a bill from their local community council, which can vary from area to area.

However, many community councils have opted to freeze this sum, so many households will pay the same as last year.

Both the police and the Vale Council pointed to cuts in their budget as being a major problem.

The police had £19 million cut from their budget from the Home Office - it fell from £295 million to £276 million.

The chair of the Police Authority, Coun Russell Roberts, said: "Setting the budget is a difficult job every year. This year it is even more so."

"The sheer magnitude of the cuts which have been imposed upon us by Central Government means that the dilemma facing us was an impos-

sible one."

The Vale Council, which gets a direct grant from the Welsh Assembly Government, said that its grant had been cut by 1.7 per cent.

At the cabinet meeting, it was also proposed that a large number of cuts, adding up to £5,789,000, should be made mandatory. (These cuts were discussed in last week's GEM).

In fact, senior officers are being asked to put together a package of cuts that will come in over the next three years (2011/12, 2012/13, and 2013/14) - and a total of £12 million is the target over those three years.

Sustainable question time

A public question time is being organised by charity 'Sustainable Wales', at Evergreen Hall, Angel Street, Bridgend, at 8pm on Monday, February 28.

Director of Sustainable Wales, Margaret Minihinnick, said that it would provide an opportunity for voters to measure differences between the main parties.

"March 3 is the referendum date in Wales, and the question time will be the ideal occasion to learn what the parties are promising".

Leekes store in retail park discussions

LOCAL retailer Leekes, is set to play an important part in a new retail development planned for Pontyclun.

A major proposal for a cinema, supermarket, hotel, civic centre and a number of retail outlets is due to go before planners, with the aim of creating a brand new shopping and entertainment centre in the heart of Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Emma Leekes, managing director of Leekes, said: "We are currently in discussions with developers and Rhondda Cynon Taff Council about the ambitious redevelopment plans for a new town centre in the area adjacent to our store on Cowbridge Road."

"This project will include the construction of a brand new Leekes store near to the existing site. This modern building will act as our flagship home store and will include new innovative ranges and products."

"We will continue to trade throughout, with our new store being constructed and ready to open before we close at the existing site; we will literally lock the doors at our current site one evening and welcome our customers to our brand new store the very next morning."

"We have always offered quality products at competitive prices and the new home store will mean we can now do this from brand new premises."

She added: "A new town centre will be fantastic for local residents

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GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA...GEM READERS'

VALE MP REPLIES TO ASSEMBLY CRITICISM

LAST week, the Assembly Health Minister, commented on my recent GEM column when I compared the approach to cancer treatment here in Wales to that in England.

In particular, I drew attention to the cancer drugs fund not being available here in Wales. This fund in England is aimed at providing life extending treatments for

cancer patients.

Many readers will recall Wales-wide campaigns to win the right to receive drugs such as Herceptin, aimed at combating breast cancer. Such treatments were widely available in England, but not here in Wales.

In criticism of my column, Mrs Hart said that she will make available drugs that have been approved by NICE and the All Wales Medicine Strategy.

The whole point of my article was that

Herceptin and many other similar treatments were still awaiting approval by such government agencies but at the same time were being prescribed widely in England and Scotland, but not here in Wales.

The cancer drugs fund in England is aimed at allowing patients to receive life extending treatment, while we in Wales are waiting for the bureaucracy and the value for money tests to be complete, which can take years.

It was interesting that

the Minister chose to focus on money spent, rather than outcomes. Money spent can include a myriad of bureaucracies and managers that cost significant sums. In any event, the BBC proved last year that more is spent per person on health in England and Scotland than in Wales, but I prefer to focus on outcomes.

Survival rates for all types of cancer are lower in Wales than in England, with the difference in stomach cancer being the most alarming. I have included the Office for National Statistics Data and the BBC evidence on my website, www.alun-cairns.co.uk.

We need to aim to be the best in the developed world. All parts of the UK need to improve survival rates and in view of lifestyle influences, the other nations across the UK are a useful comparison.

I hope people aren't scared, as was suggested, by my column, but are made aware of the different approaches in order to influence politicians to strive for the best treatment for us all. **Alun Cairns MP, Vale of Glamorgan**

Train drivers' responsibilities

IFEEL that I had to write to you after seeing the Alun Cairns' interview on BBC news the other night, when he stated that the railway drivers' pay rise offer is quite adequate for the qualifications and job they do.

Perhaps a few points of interest should be made: Qualifications to become a train driver – at least four good passes at 'O' level are required. Training to become a train driver takes from 12-18 months, with progressive examinations.

Responsibilities include being in complete control of several million pounds worth of sophisticated technology and the safety of 500 or more

passengers.

They work six 12 hour shifts, from early morning or late evening, including weekends for wages, including prospective award of £39,000.

Qualifications to become an MP – none (except to be of sound mind?). Training required to become an MP – none. Responsibilities that could be life threatening – none.

Wages nearly £67,000 plus expenses, plus fantastic pension scheme!

So Mr Cairns, in future 'put brain into gear' and contemplate that while you are travelling up to London (first class, of course) with hundreds of other passengers, at speeds of over 120 miles an hour, your destiny is in the hands of that little man right up the front of the train. **Gareth Williams**

Why this threat to end the school crossing patrols?

THANKS to significant investment and improved driving standards road fatalities in Wales are at a 10-year low.

Obviously, one death or serious injury is too many, but our roads are safer than for many years.

The Welsh Government has invested heavily in safe routes to schools, supported by many local councils.

So why is the Vale Council now starting to undermine this good work?

Why is the Conservative cabinet threatening to withdraw essential school-crossing patrols in Penarth, Dinas Powys and Barry?

Reducing death and injury on our roads has been achieved by a long list of safety projects, each one contributing to the protection of people, especially children, from harm.

The cabinet plans will start to reverse this accepted strategy of careful improvements. This council does not

have an impressive record when it comes to financial decisions.

For example, the Vale made a bid for £300,000 for a safety scheme in Llantwit Major. The Assembly offered the grant, only for the council to fail to complete the scheme.

In the case of Dinas Powys, the savings will be only £15,000.

The crossing is on one of the busiest roads in the county. Up to 20,000 vehicles a day pass a school and the pavements are very narrow.

As it is an infants school, lots of parents need to use buggies. These narrow pavements therefore cause problems.

This crazy cut flies in the face of the recommendations of the council's all party budget working party.

The council must stop tormenting parents and withdraw these proposals.

Chris Franks, Dinas Powys, (Plaid Cymru AM for South Wales Central)

Recycling: Council should make it easy on ourselves!

WITH reference to the article in last week's GEM about the need for savings to be made by the council, in my opinion it would be a great idea if the council was to introduce more co-mingled recycling collections.

In fact, I think the best way forward would be to let residents put all their different materials into ONE bag and collect it every week, as it is in Cardiff.

Not only would this make it less cumbersome for householders to recycle, but it would also make the storage issue easier. This in turn would, I believe, lead to more people's participation.

A friend of mine with a seven-person household (two adults and five children) recently said to me: "I'll start recycling as soon as the council provides me with somewhere to put it all."

Our own household has two adults and four children, and we fill at least one of the council's green recycling boxes every day.

A week ago, we contacted the council to see if we could purchase a



wheelie bin at a reduced rate to help with storage, but this was unsuccessful.

We are storing our recycling in plastic bags in the back garden under the kitchen window. This is so that we don't have to look at all the bags, but it is quite a big amount of stuff and makes the patio area less useable. Weekly collections of ALL the materials would sort that out.

Another point for the council to consider is that increased recycling participation across the Vale would also reduce our liability to pay horrendous fines to the EU for not meeting our landfill reduction targets.

In this day, where cuts to the value of 5.7m are being considered for Vale, we can really do without forking out for fines to the EU.

Silke Singleton, Barry

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NEWS FROM YSGOL ST BARUC

St Fagan's visit ties in with WWII project

AR Chwefror 9, bu disgyblion blwyddyn 6 Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc yn Sain Ffagan am y diwrnod. Un o'r pethau mwyaf diddorol welon nhw yno oedd y cysgodfan Anderson. Mae'r disgyblion yn astudio hanes y gysodfan ynghyd ag agweddau arall o fywyd yn y 40au yn eu gwersi hanes yn y dosbarth.

On February 9, year-6 pupils visited St Fagan's National History Museum. One of the main attractions of the day was the Anderson shelter. The pupils are studying the history of the shelter, as well as other aspects of life in the 1940s in their history lessons in class.

CLIPBOARDS AT THE READY!



ABOVE: Clipboards at the ready, the pupils prepare to walk around St Fagan's Museum.

Netball fun at Cardiff

AR ddydd Mercher, Chwefror 9 cymrodd y tîm pêl rwyd rhan yng nghystadleuaeth pêl rwyd yr Urdd yng Ngerddi Soffia yng Nghaerdydd. Chwaraeodd y plant yn arbennig o dda a mwynhau bob munud. Da iawn chi!

On Wednesday, February 9, the netball team took part in the Urdd netball tournament at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff. The team played extremely well and enjoyed every minute.

School team reaches football final!

LLONGYFARCHIAD
AU enfawr i dîm pêl droed Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc ar ddiwedd yr ail yng nghystadleuaeth Pêl - droed yr Urdd Caerdydd a'r Fro.

Roedd 28 tîm yn cystadlu a chwaraeodd Sant Baruc yn arbennig o dda heb addef yr un gol tan y gêm derfynol. Aeth y tîm ymlaen i'r rownd derfynol yn erbyn Ysgol Coed y Gof, Caerdydd a'r sgôr terfynol oedd 2 - 0 i Goed y Gof. Mae'r gamp i'w glodfodi fwy fwy gan mae dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r tîm gystadlu mewn cystadleuaeth a hefyd y tro cyntaf iddynt chwarae gyda'i gilydd fel tîm. Diolch yn fawr i'r hyfforddwr Mr Kenyon am ei waith caled ac i'r tîm -



mae'r ysgol gyfan yn falch iawn ohonoch!
MASSIVE congratulations to Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc football team for coming second in the Cardiff and Vale Urdd football tournament.
Twenty-eight teams

took part and Sant Baruc played extremely well, not conceding a goal until their final game.
In the final, they played Ysgol Coed y Gof, Cardiff; the final score was 2-0 to Coed y Gof.
The team are to be

congratulated as this was the first time they had played in a tournament.
Thank you very much to the coach Mr Kenyon for his hard work and to the team - the whole school are very proud of you!

Vale AM meets St Baruc pupils!

BRAINT ac anrhydedd oedd croesawu Aelod y Cynulliad Jane Hutt i Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc, dydd Gwener yr 11eg o Chwefror.

Daeth yn arbennig i gwrdd â'r disgyblion a'r Pennaeth newydd Mrs Rhian Andrew. Mynychodd wasanaeth gwobrwyo'r ysgol a gweld y disgyblion yn derbyn eu tystysgrifau 'Seren yr Wythnos' ac 'Arwyr yr Awr' yn ogystal â dathlu llywyddiant ein disgyblion tu allan i'r ysgol. Diolchodd Mrs Hutt am y croeso gafodd a dwedodd ei bod wedi mwynhau ei hymwelid i'r ysgol yn fawr.

ON Friday, February 11, it was an honour and pleasure to welcome Vale AM Mrs Jane Hutt (above) to Ysgol Sant Baruc.

She visited the school to meet the children and the new headteacher Mrs Rhian Andrew. She attended the awards assembly and watched the children being presented with their 'Seren yr Wythnos' and 'Arwyr yr Awr' certificates, as well as celebrating their achievements outside the school.

Mrs Hutt thanked us for the warm welcome she had and said that she had thoroughly enjoyed her visit to the school.

Pupils take a look around local store

ON Tuesday, February 15, reception class pupils visited Morrisons supermarket in Barry.

They had the opportunity to go around the supermarket, tasting different foods including pizza and cheese. Everyone enjoyed the visit.

DYDD Mawrth y 15fed o Chwefror aeth disgyblion dosbarth Derbyn Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc i ymweld ag archfarchnad Morrisons yn y Barri.

Cawsom fynd o gwmpas yr archfarchnad a blasu gwahanol fwydydd gan gynnwys pŵs a chaws. Mwynheuodd pawb ei hymwelid.

St Baruc pupils get the power!

DYDD Mawrth yr 8fed o Chwefror bu disgyblion o ddosbarth 3 Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc ar ymweliad i Orsaf B?er Aberddawan yn agos i'r Barri.

Roedd yn diddorol diddorol iawn Dysgodd y disgyblion fod yr orsaf yn defnyddio glo ac yn cynhyrchu egni i dros 1.5 miliwn o bobl lleol!

ON Tuesday, February 8, pupils from class 3, visited Aberthaw Power Station.

The day was very interesting and educational and, amongst other things, the children learnt that the power station uses coal and produces enough energy for more than 1.5 million local people!



Cool schoolkids!

LLONGYFARCHIADAU i'r plant canlynol o Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc am dderbyn pindlws 'Rwy'n Siarad Cymraeg'.

Josie Clarke, Mia Palmer, Lilly Vann, Kaseigh Viney, Lucas Bickram, Arwel Thomas, a Harry Williams. Enwebwyd y disgyblion yma gan eu cyfoedion am fod yn Gymru Cwl.

Cyflwynodd y Pennaeth, Mrs Rhian Andrew'r pindlws yn y gwasanaeth gwobrwyo ar ddiwedd yr hanner tymor.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils from receiving a gold pin award 'Rwy'n Siarad Cymraeg'.

Josie Clarke, Mia Palmer, Lilly Vann, Kaseigh Viney, Lucas Bickram, Arwel Thomas and Harry Williams were nominated by peers for being 'Cymru Cwl'.

The gold pins awards were presented by headteacher, Mrs Rhian Andrew, in the school celebration assembly at the end of half term.

A visit to historic mineworks

AR ddydd Iau'r 10fed o Chwefror aeth disgyblion blwyddyn 5 Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc i lawr i'r tywyllwch ym Mhwll Mawr!

Cawsom nhw ddiwrnod addysgiadol gwyh yn dysgu am fywyd y glowyr oedd yn gweithio ym mhyllau glo Cymru canrif yn ol.

ON Thursday, February 10, pupils from year-5 Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc (above) went down to the darkness of Big Pit!

They had a very interesting and educational day, learning about the life and work of a coal miner in Wales over a century ago.



Charity calls for action on 'severe child poverty'

by PHILIP IRWIN

A LEADING children's charity is claiming that the extent of "severe child poverty" in the Vale and Bridgend county borough has been under estimated, and that is still a major problem.

The charity commissioned a survey, looking at the UK as a whole, and claims that it has been able to extrapolate from that to get a picture on a county by county basis.

As a result of this survey, Save the Children is calling on the Chancellor to draw up an emergency plan to tackle severe child poverty.

For the first time Save the Children has provided a local authority breakdown of the figures which estimates that 3,000 (14 per cent) of children living in the Vale are in severe poverty.

In Bridgend county borough, the figures quoted by the charity are 4,000 (15 per cent)

in severe poverty.

According to Save the Children, a lone-parent family with one child aged under 14 living on an income of less than £7,000 is in severe poverty.

The charity says that a couple with two children under 14 living on less than £12,500 will also be in "severe poverty".

A spokeswoman said that the figure quoted referred to income after housing costs were excluded. However, all other expenses, including council tax, would be met from the income.

The spokeswoman added that the figure of £7,000 for a single parent, and £12,500 for a couple, referred to income after tax, and that a number of people on low wages came into this category.

Of the UK nations, Wales has the highest proportion of children living in severe poverty (14 per cent) followed by England (13) then Scotland and Northern Ireland (nine per cent each).

Lucky is a real charmer!

THE GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find good homes for animals in their charge.

This week, Linda Feagan highlights Lucky an 8-year-old terrier cross.

He is a lovely little dog. Despite being quite unsocialised when first coming to us, he has come on leaps and bounds.

He plays nicely with other dogs, and is quick to learn. He is very keen to please, and is enjoying his training.

His new owners will need to continue with his socialising, as he can be a little OTT when first meeting new dogs! Lucky can live with



ABOVE: Lucky

older children, of 11+, and will be a nice little man if you can give him the right home!

If you are interested in Lucky, call in at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, or call 01656 725219. You can also see Lucky and some of his friends on the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk

Rescue team off to New Zealand

MEMBERS of the South Wales Fire and Rescue's international search and rescue team will soon head for

Christchurch, New Zealand following the devastating earthquake there.

The nine personnel have their equipment prepared and were awaiting a flight to the earthquake struck country yesterday.

As part of the overall UK international search and rescue team, they will join the rescue operation for people trapped under buildings and rubble.

Prayer meeting
WOMEN'S World Day of Prayer asks 'How Many Loaves have You?' on Friday, March 4 at 1.45pm and 7.30pm in United Reform Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth. All welcome.

Relocated...Revitalised...Revealed... COWBRIDGE HEALTH CENTRE

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Cowbridge Health Centre provides a gleaming 21st century service for the town

THE ten-year wait has been worth it! Cowbridge Health Centre is everything that both patients and local practice staff could have dreamed of.

For years, the Cowbridge and Western Vale Group Practice and the Cowbridge and Vale Medical Practice provided their services in the cramped premises of Old Hall Gardens.

But now, the two practices have moved into gleaming, purpose-built premises just beyond the town's leisure centre along the Broadshoard.

Dr Janet Taylor said she and her partners felt the opening of the new health centre represented the culmination of many years of searching for a suitable site and planning the development.

"The new building will provide much more space and incorporates modern facilities, including better access for children and the disabled. There is adequate parking for both staff and patients."

"The improved site will allow us to continue training young doctors and to provide the people of Cowbridge and the Western Vale with the excellent service that they deserve."

Dr Paul Arnold said the move would improve facilities for patients and said: "After a long time at the Old Hall Grounds site, we are all delighted to have moved to our new health centre and look forward to providing our patients with improved healthcare facilities."

This week, as final touches were being made to the operation of the practices, the two practice managers, Pat Hold and Lindsey Richards, were able to reflect with relief on a successful move and with optimism for the future.

Pat, who has been the local practice manager for the Cowbridge and Western Vale Group for 10 years, said: "The staff put in lots of extra hours round the clock over the last two weeks, including evenings and weekends, to help in the move."

"At our previous premises, we were bursting at the seams. What we are now able to offer is a modern, 21st century service to people."

"Lots of time and effort has been spent upgrading the facilities."



ABOVE:
Staff at Cowbridge Health Centre ready to welcome patients to the new premises included (from left to right) Lesley, Helen, Claire, Carol, Lorraine, and Sandra.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

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Llantwit Major is pleased to announce that she will also be in practice at the new Cowbridge and Vale Medical Practice's wing. Full Chiropody treatments available from Monday, March 7th. Phone Clare on 07947 406404.

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Light and bright – the new waiting room for patients visiting the practices at Cowbridge Health Centre.



It is the dawn of a new era in health provision in the town with the opening of Cowbridge Health Centre on the Broadboard.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Patients arrive in a waiting area that is cheerful and bright thanks to large skylights. Touch screen technology has been introduced to speed things along, and there's even a choice of seating: sculpted wooden seats or padded sofas.

While people wait to see the doctor, there are large video screens which dispense useful health tips, such as how to stop smoking, avoid falls and healthy eating.

Pat pointed out that the extra space would enable the practice to run more consulting rooms, continue training GPs in its vital role as a 'teaching practice' and also expand on minor surgery. Other additional facilities include training

rooms, a library and a boardroom which can be hired out to local companies.

She added: "We also have a new phone system to help with telephone access, which had been an issue. It was something we had been aware of, but couldn't do anything about until we had relocated."

Shan Morgan of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, which is also occupies part of the new premises, said: "Our district nurses, health visitors, podiatry and physiotherapy staff, and the Vale Community Health team have all moved in and are delighted with the facilities."

"People should call 01656 763130 if they

want to contact the district nurses, until the number is transferred to the Vale Health Board."

Mr Geoff Simm, of Brackley Investments Ltd, the specialist developer behind the project, said: "We are delighted to have worked with colleagues at both GP practices to design and build this much needed improvement to the healthcare facilities for the people of Cowbridge."

"Our close working

relationship with both Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and with the Vale Council has meant that, in addition to providing the new health centre, we have been able to improve access and car parking for the existing leisure centre."

People can also make their way on foot to Cowbridge Health Centre by going through the gate on North Road behind the Bear Hotel.

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THE GREAT DEBATE AS PUBLIC PREPARES TO GO TO THE POLLS

'We need to catch up with the rest of UK' 'Referendum is not about independence, more AMs, or more powers for Wales'

ON March 3, we have an important vote about the future of Wales.

For some years now, we have had a slow and expensive system of making laws in Wales.

If the Assembly wants to do something, it often has to make a written application to Westminster to ask for the power to pass a law.

This slow process winds its way through the Commons and the Lords until finally it comes back to Cardiff. Only then can we actually do something.

It can take years for us to pass laws, unlike in England, Scotland and tiny Northern Ireland, where they can pass laws by themselves without going through this process.

Just as you'd expect a business to be as efficient as possible, so you should expect the same from government. We in Wales have the slowest form of government in Britain and I believe we deserve something a lot more efficient, just like everyone else in the UK.

● The referendum is NOT about extra powers for the Assembly.

What are these extra powers?

BY now, most of the readers of The GEM will have received the booklet supplied by the Electoral Commission, allegedly explaining, what the Referendum Vote on March 3 is all about.

I say 'allegedly' because it does not make plain exactly what extra powers the population will be voting for.

Obviously I was aware that the Assembly had law making powers, but in terms of knowing what those powers related to, and how many, I, like many, were ignorant, and in my case still am.

I now know that there are 20 subject areas, including agriculture, food, the Welsh language etc, and quoting the booklet it states 'In each subject area, the Assembly can make laws on some matters, but not others'.

The Assembly has to have permission from the UK Parliament to make the laws they wish in respect of these areas. How many times have they been refused I do

by First Minister Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend

Nothing new is being given to it. All it means is that it can take decisions more quickly in the areas it's already responsible for.

● It's NOT about independence. All it means is that Wales will have the same status as Scotland and Northern Ireland.

● It's NOT about more AMs. The number will stay at 60.

● It's NOT about tax-varying powers. The Assembly won't be able to set taxes whatever the result of the vote.

It is about better government for Wales. A 'No' vote will mean we're stuck with what is now a slow, clanking and expensive system which no-one else in the UK has to put up with.

We in Wales still have the Austin Ten while everyone else has a new Ford! It will also mean that Wales will pretty much disappear off a cliff as far as being noticed by Whitehall is concerned.

I want us to catch up with the rest of Britain and build on the good work of the last 12

not know, and why they were, if any were refused, is another question.

What I find difficult understanding, is why Parliament, when it agreed to give Wales its Assembly, did not give it the full powers for all 20 subject areas?

I know that the political hierarchy will suggest that the powers agreed to were given to allow the Assembly to 'bed-in' as it were, then with time and experience, more powers would follow.

I wish to know what extra powers for each subject area the Assembly will have and will it benefit the majority of the population?

I am currently undecided, but lean towards voting 'No', simply because when the Welsh Assembly want these powers, the information supplied by the Electoral Commission is not fully transparent.

Suggesting that the Commission is independent is one thing, not making the information clear is another.

FMD Knill, Pendoylan

years with free bus passes, free prescriptions, with the ProAct scheme which kept 12,000 people in work during the recession, and, of course, the financial support that students will receive in Wales that's being denied to them in England.

I believe that laws

'My reasons for voting NO'

IN answer to the letter from Chris Elmore in The GEM on February 3, I would like to make the following comments.

The Assembly already has the law-making powers over economic development, education, health, transport, local government, public administration and if given more powers, it will slowly separate us from the UK.

This will mean we will lose the £9.1 billion we receive from UK Treasury. One does not have to be a mathematician to work out where the loss of £9.1 billion will be made up from; my mind tells me the Welsh taxpayer would have to pay out an additional £3,100 every year.

To the Yes voters, please think before you vote: a quote from Ron Davies, Labour Secretary of State for Wales (Hansard 22 July 1997) "We do not propose to construct a new building for the Assembly, or to create

'TV debate made up my mind'

LIKE your correspondent Kenneth Jenkins of Rhosce (The GEM, February 17), I am also 86 years of age and have witnessed many changes over the years - not always to the benefit of our country.

I watched TV's 'Dragon's Eye' about two weeks ago, because I had learned that there would be a discussion between the leaders of the 'Yes' and the 'No' referendum campaign.

The 'No' vote speaker, a lady, said that her campaign's success in declining public funding meant that the 'Yes' campaign would also not

that only apply in Wales should be made in Wales, just as laws that apply to the whole of the UK should be made at Westminster.

I'm sure that most people would agree with that.

I'll be voting 'Yes' on March 3 and I ask you to do the same. Wales deserves a better future. Let's make sure that we can create it after March 3.

more bureaucracy in a democratic Wales or more civil servants."

I will use another quote from our No vote leaflet (I am including these for the electors who may have not received one).

Also in 1997 we were told that the Assembly costs would not exceed £17 million a year. Since then, the number of Assembly civil servants has almost tripled - 76 properties now make up the Assembly estate:

Assembly buildings: Cardiff Bay, £67m; Aberystwyth, £22m; Llandudno junction, £20.1m; Merthyr Tydfil, £18.8m; WAG administration for 2008-9, £346m; Assembly commission for 2008-9, £49.7m.

To end my reasons for not voting Yes but to vote No, I will ask: with the expected increase in AMs, researchers, staff, flats accommodation expenses, where will the cost come from to meet the increases?

Coun E T Williams, Barry (Conservative member, Iltyd Ward)

'Why I am voting YES for Wales'

IN answer to the letter of Mr Eddie Fitzpatrick, of 'True Wales' (The GEM, February 3) I will most definitely be voting Yes on March 3.

A Yes vote will mean cheaper more efficient government for us in Wales.

Instead of having to wait years for committees of English Lords and MPs to give their approval to things concerning Wales, by voting Yes, we in Wales will be able to make our own decisions about our daily lives.

The so called 'True Wales' brigade, of which Mr Fitzpatrick is a member is anything but truthful; UNTRUE - The slippery slope to independence argument. The proposal on offer is only for the limited number of areas already devolved to Wales.

The Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly already have far more devolved powers, and no-one talks about them being on a slippery slope.

UNTRUE - That there will be more AMs... This is not on offer, and neither is there any offer of tax-raising powers.

UNTRUE - That either the Assembly or the Yes Campaign are somehow elitist. The Assembly is elected by ALL the people of Wales, whatever their class, race or creed.

The majority of those of us in the Yes camp who campaign for better government are like myself,

working class, not an elite.

UNTRUE - That, as one of the leading spokesmen of 'True Wales', Paul Matthews implies, the people of Wales are too stupid to make decisions about themselves - I won't even attempt to answer that one.

The 'No' camp should rename itself 'Un-true Wales' or 'NO Wales'. They do not have our interests at heart.

They won't even tell you that the present government is going to radically reduce the number of Welsh MPs, and that the little voice of Wales at Westminster will be even smaller.

They won't tell you that our only hope is a stronger Assembly which can defend the interests, livelihoods and lifestyles of all of us who live in Wales. That's why I'm voting Yes.

Colin Lewis, Kenfig Hill.

Mixed messages from politicians

AT great financial cost to taxpayers, politicians have for decades insisted we could only remain a successful country if we were a United Kingdom within a United Europe working towards the same basic standards and laws to eradicate division and wars.

Yet today, politicians advocate the break up of the United Kingdom into smaller areas of self-interest and are creating less unity by wanting different standards and laws for Wales.

This can only be achieved with the addition of more politicians, civil servants and bureaucracy and having established the Welsh Assembly as an extra

tier of government in Cardiff from a minority of the people in Wales, politicians now want our agreement to increase their powers.

The UK Government talks about a Big Society but I am afraid greater devolution will create a smaller divided society as conflicting standards and laws emerge over time.

Traditionally, London has financially supported each person in Wales more than those in England.

However, with greater devolution and the transfer of UK jobs and wealth to the Far East, that may end in the future and the simple remedy then would be to give taxation powers to Cardiff to cover the shortfall.

Gary Victor, Porthcawl

Parties unite to say YES...

YES for Wales attracted up to 60 people to a launch meeting in Dinas Powys when speakers from the four main parties in Wales addressed the meeting.

Former First Minister, and Labour AM for Cardiff West Rhodri Morgan said: "As a Dinas Powys long-term resident, almost a 'lifer', I very much enjoyed the experience of addressing the Yes Campaign launch event in Wales' largest village. We had excellent questions that really did get to the heart of the issues."

Conservative AM David Melding said: "As a NO voter back in 1997 I would urge all doubters to now vote YES.

"Devolution has not weakened Britain but rather led to a less centralised form of government that is closer to the people. We should build on this and make the National Assembly a more robust institution similar to the Scottish Parliament."

The meeting was also addressed by Welsh Liberal Democrat Eluned Parrott.

Plaid Cymru regional AM Chris Franks commented after the meeting: "It was great to be part of such a positive meeting in Dinas Powys. It was fantastic to see so many people committed to hearing the message that laws that affect only Wales should be made in Wales."

Ignore rhetoric, and just vote!

THE recent announcements in The GEM about voters' registration were a timely reminder that everyone should vote on March 3.

Whatever the outcome, it is important that this is achieved through a high turnout of voters, thus ensuring that the result has been reached by an overall majority of the electorate.

Voters should make an informed choice and ignore political rhetoric. Past performance is usually an indication of future achievement: and in this regard it is worth noting that 15

Legislative Competence Orders (LCOs) have been successfully introduced by the Assembly and accepted by Parliament since 2007.

Therefore, the present system of introducing legislation is working well and this process has been made more efficient over time because of refinements made by the Assembly.

The critical questions are: Can the present system which is working well be significantly improved if more law-making powers are obtained now?

Will any perceived improvement in legislative competence be worth moving away from independent scrutiny and monitoring offered by Parliament?

Finally will the new legislative powers for the Assembly mean that Welsh MPs no longer have an input to legislation produced in Wales? Alan Gould, Llyswoyney

How Llantwit volunteers support regeneration

READERS of The GEM may like to know how the team of almost 20 local volunteers who constitute 'Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower' are supporting local regeneration.

The charity sources funding to plant up two flower beds and five planters in the town centre with a display that changes twice year - as well as funding plants for hanging baskets and planters for any local businesses that want to participate.

The team of volunteers weed, water, remove rubbish, and generally care for the plants on a daily basis for 52 weeks of the year, and are often complimented on how the display brightens up the town centre.

Hearing of the proposed new developments, charity Chair Tina Benfield became involved at the planning stage, so that the flower

planters could be incorporated into the new design.

As a result of this dialogue, it was agreed that extra taps would be installed to make the watering easier. She also lobbied for posts to be erected to carry hanging baskets which Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower will buy thanks to a generous grant from nPower Aberthaw, and maintain in partnership with the council.

They have agreed to be responsible for the watering, housing a bowser which the charity will buy. This will be a partnership project between charity and local council, which will benefit everyone in the town.

We can see the work progressing at an encouraging rate, and are confident that the end result will be a fitting tribute to the enthusiasm and hard work of everybody involved.

Chris Neuss (Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower)

The path down to the beach becomes a canal!



The new beach path is under water.

THE new pathway down to Llantwit Major beach was under water earlier this week following torrential rain.

GEM reader, Patricia Mears, who took these photos, commented: "When does a pathway become a canal? When it's the new path to Llantwit Major beach!"

Another reader, Amanda Sarll, who likes to take her children and dogs for a walk down to the beach area, contacted The GEM to point out: "This is going to happen again and again. The meadow is completely saturated and the water will take several days to drain away. The path has been built in the wrong place. It has not been thought through properly."



ABOVE: Diggers on the path.

erly." She suggested the path on the right hand side looking in the direction of Llantwit Major, should have been enhanced, rather than constructing the new one in its current location.

YOUTH COFFEE

A VALE of Glamorgan circuit youth coffee morning, with stalls and activities for children and young people, will be held at Albert Road Methodist church and community centre, Penarth, on Saturday, March 5 from 10.30am-12noon.

GARDENING TALK

WELSH gardening expert Ivor Mace, takes centre stage on the topic of 'A Year in my Garden' in the St Quentin Suite at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, on Wednesday, March 16 at 7.30pm.

Promoted by Cowbridge Physic Garden, the talk is a departure from the usual gardeners' question time format. As well as being a highly successful vegetable grower, Ivor Mace is a nationwide expert on chrysanthemums, roses and carnations.

Admission is £5 and proceeds are in aid of the physic garden, run entirely by volunteers.

Workshops draw in adult learners

ADULT Learners took a break from the usual Saturday routine at one day workshops at Palmerston Community Learning Centre recently.

A record number of students enrolled on the courses and the 'cupcakes workshop' in particular proved so popular that extra weekend dates have been added.

In the EBay workshop, students spent a day with tutor Chris Thomas learning the dos and don'ts for setting up and buying and selling safely online. A workshop with glasswork tutor Yvonne

Coffey, learning to create jewellery and glasswork fired in the microwave oven, was also fully booked.

Life drawing workshops are also popular under art tutor Gary Colston.

In the dressmaking workshop, basic cutting and sewing machine skills were learnt under the supervision of tutor Joanne Terrar.

One-day Saturday workshops will take place on March 19 at 10am-4pm and will include digital photography, painting with oils and acrylics, pottery and ceramics, sugarcraft cake decorating and patchwork and quilting.

Chief Supt Alun Thomas, of Porthcawl.



CHIEF Superintendent Alun Thomas of Porthcawl has been appointed the new commander for Cardiff.

He spent most of the last decade working in the city where he previously served as Detective Chief Inspector and Superintendent. The father-of-two moves back to the capital after a year overseeing the specialist operations department at force headquarters, replacing Chief Superintendent Bob Tooby, who retired earlier this month.

"I am overjoyed and extremely proud to be working back in Cardiff, which has been my sec-

ond home, having spent the last six years of my 26 years of service here," he said.

"I arrive at the start of what is going to be an extremely challenging time for South Wales Police, as a result of financial restrictions across all public sector services.

"However, I can assure you that the enthusiasm and diligence of our officers will remain constant throughout this period.

"The good news is that the team continues to deliver outstanding results, such as the recent 11.6 per cent reduction in crime or 4,662 fewer victims compared to the previous 12 months. This success is due to the

Porthcawl officer is the capital's new police chief

professional work of officers, the active involvement of our partners at Safer Capital, and the public, who I know want to make this is an even safer place to work, live and socialise."

He is one of four members of the South Wales Police Triathlon Team - twice winners and current champions of the European Ironman Emergency Services competition.

He takes the helm in Cardiff supported by Superintendent Julian Williams (crime and operations) and Superintendent Liane James (communities and partnerships).

"Everybody would like a police officer in their street, but we need to be masters of being in the right place at the right time. I am confident that I have the best team to achieve this," he added.

Rhose Point land to be bought by Vale Council

THE Vale Council is to take possession of land at Rhose Point, by buying it from the administrators of the failed development company.

At a cabinet meeting this week (Monday) the decision was taken to pay the administrators £20,000 for the land.

A number of section 106 payments were outstanding, but these are now to be written off, although the Vale Council is holding a sum of £55,000, previously paid by the developers, Cofton.

The report considered by cabinet stated: "The transfer documents as now drafted make reference to this sum and the fact that the council can exercise discretion in how it uses the £55,000

previously paid towards the cost of constructing changing rooms at the site."

The report added: "There have been complaints by local residents of anti-social behaviour on the land that is to be transferred.

"Most of these complaints relate to the land not being effectively managed by the company."

"The lagoon area is a particular source of concern, with the Police recently having to increase their patrols of the area to address the problems being experienced."

"The transfer of this land to the council will permit improved management arrangements, which will improve the quality of life of residents who live in close proximity to the area of concern."

Council asks for Island's views

The Vale Council is holding planning workshops for residents at the Old Railway Station building on Barry Island to look at what land might be available for development, how access and parking at the Island might operate and what schemes the council could consider.

Coun Rhodri Traherne, cabinet member for economic development and

regeneration, explained: "The intention is to examine ideas and possible schemes for the island. It is vital that we have the views of local people in order to take forward any future development."

The workshops are planned for March 8, 10am-12pm; March 9, 2pm-4pm and March 10, 6.30pm-8.30pm.

Frustration in Dinas: Who is responsible?

I WOULD like to comment on some of the points made by Coun Val Hartrey in her letter 'Residents are fed up' in a recent issue of The GEM.

First, the bus lane constructed from Eastbrook to the Merrie Harrier junction: This was first proposed by the Conservative administration of the Vale Council while in coalition with Plaid Cymru (Val's party).

However, the report stage was passed and the final bid was made by the Labour/Plaid administration.

The scheme was given the go-ahead by this administration while Coun Chris Williams, one of the Plaid Cymru councillors representing Dinas Powys, held the portfolio for planning and transport in the coalition cabinet.

At the end of her letter, Val says that the village has been waiting for more than 40 years for a by-pass. No-one would disagree.

However, I would like to point out that the Conservative administration from 2000 to 2007 applied annually for a

READER'S VIEWPOINT

grant from the Welsh Assembly Government for the funds that would be required for such a large capital investment.

These requests were refused annually and eventually the Vale Council was told to stop sending applications.

The current Minister for Economy and Transport at the Assembly is Ieuan Wyn Jones, the Plaid Cymru leader. Perhaps Val could have a word with him at their next party conference? The proposed new Tesco at the site of the Castle Oak public house raises an interesting point.

The divergence of planning regulations between Wales and England since devolution means that in Wales Tesco do not need to have change of use planning permission granted by the Vale Council, whereas in England they would.

As a result, any supermarket may buy a public house in Wales and turn it into a retail outlet.

Andrew Robertson, Leckwith

SAINT'S DAY

HOLY Trinity Church, Barry, is holding a celebration for St David on Saturday, March 5 at 7pm with traditional refreshments - cawl and entertainment.

Tickets £3; entrance to the hall is in Aberystwyth Crescent.

Havard & Havard invite you to "A Romantic Home" with Andrew Douglas Forbes



Andrew, one of Wales, foremost artists, conveys a mood of romance, wonder and enchantment through his paintings. His eye for detail and use of colour offer a perfect backdrop for any setting.

Enjoy cakes and conversation on how art can bring a romantic mood to your home.

Tuesday March 1st from 2 o'clock

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01446 775021

New 'adiZone' could be Island's next attraction

AN open air gym dubbed an 'adiZone' looks as if it is set for Barry Island.

More than 40 adiZones have been rolled out in a number of locations in England so far - they offer fitness facilities, and the public can turn up and use them without having to pay a charge or needing membership.

A proposal to site an adiZone on the vacant area of ground on Paget Road opposite the snooker hall was put to traders during a liaison meeting involving the Vale Council, the police and business owners last week.

An indicative vote by local traders backed the plan.

Phil Beaman, the operational manager for parks

by TIM CHAPMAN

and grounds maintenance for the Vale Council, explained: "The parks and grounds maintenance division is currently considering the installation of an adiZone at Barry Island at the time of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to inspire more young people to take part in sport."

"The adiZone is a platform for local communities to engage with many different types of physical activity from dance, basketball and football to gymns. It provides users free access to sports and fitness facilities. It can also be a hub for sports and fitness clubs' community engagement programs."

"A site on Paget Road is being considered and

planning permission is required. If approved an application for funding will be made to the Barry Regeneration Area Board. If all goes to plan, the site could be operational by the autumn of 2012.

"This could be a fantastic opportunity for both Vale residents and visitors to access free sports and fitness facilities at Barry Island, adding to our plans to improve the general amenity of the area."

Local businessman Brian Osborne said that while he welcomed the fact that the council was being proactive in seeking to upgrade the Island with facilities, he doubted whether the adiZone had been earmarked for the correct place.

"We have worked hard to project a family friendly image of Barry Island but I don't believe this is going to the right location."

Mr Osborne questioned why such a decision was being made in advance of the 'Barry Island Master Plan' being considered, adding that he was concerned that the adiZone might become an unwelcome gathering point near the seaford, particularly during the winter months.

Island councillor Steffan Williams gave the adiZone qualified backing.

He explained: "I think the idea is worth a punt and better than having waste ground."

"However, it must be monitored. If there is any problem we must act quickly to do something about it."

Out and About with The GEM

Pegg and Frost's alien comedy tickles funny bone

SIMON Pegg and Nick Frost have come a long way since they lit up Channel 4 with the sitcom *Spaced*.

Big screen visits with the hugely successful *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*, as well as individual outings in the likes of *Star Trek* and *Mission: Impossible 3* for Pegg, and *The Boat That Rocked* for Frost, have seen the pair become big deals in the world of film.

While their third collaboration with Edgar Wright remains on the backburner, the pair's first script together makes it way into cinema.

Entitled *Paul*, it sees Pegg and Frost play Graeme and Clive, two geeks on a road trip

across America, who come across the titular alien (voiced by Seth Rogen).

Paul wants the pair to help him get home – however government agents (led by Jason Bateman) are hot on their tail and are intent on capturing Paul for their own nefarious means...

Simon Pegg and Nick Frost have been happy to mine the 'buddy movie' genre in their previous outings, with both *Hot Fuzz* and *Shaun of the Dead*, while clever deconstructions of the action and zombie genre respectively, carrying the underlying air of 'bromance' between their characters.

Paul is no exception to this, the pair playing close friends whose friendship plays

amongst the comedy; yet unlike the previous films, it doesn't quite manage to hit the target, the end result being a funny film that sees its attempt to work on a broader platform work only intermittently.

While they've previously made films that celebrate the British way of life, with American influences layered on top, *Paul* marks the pair's first attempt at an 'American' film, playing more broadly.

The results are mixed – certainly their comedic sensibilities play out well, with their script mining the pair's relationship and meeting with the alien known as Paul.

However, the jokes often veer into cliché or predictability; some even wear a little thin despite the charm of the performances.

The pair have professed their love of films like *Close Encounters...* and TV shows such as *The X-Files*, and that all feeds into the script; but often it seems a little too much in thrall of those influences (even, in a rather amusing moment, shoe-horning in a cameo from the director of the aforementioned film).

It is when the titular alien crashes his way onto the screen, that things pick up.

Looking much like we have been conditioned to expect an alien to look like (so that we don't freak out when you bump into him apparently!) the alien is perfectly realised visually, and more important, perfectly voiced by Seth Rogen.

Grabbing the film by the scruff of the neck, the questionable substance-smoking, foul-mouthed alien puts a rocket into the film and sets light to it.

Obviously the computer-generated element of the character is hugely important, and that has been executed well,

but the onus is very much on Rogen to deliver the character part.

He does this with aplomb, capturing both the weariness of a creature who is infinitely smarter than anyone else on the planet, yet with a wry 'couldn't care less' attitude that makes him a likeable and engaging personality.

While Rogen more or less pops the film in his pocket, the central pairing of Pegg and Frost work similarly well, albeit mining a similar schtick.

This time round they are a partnership of equals, two guys enjoying everything that America has to offer until they bump into Paul, and the duo's naturalistic turns offer a beautiful counterpoint to their alien counterpart's more outlandish turn.

While the conflict between the two is dialled down to zero (a tactic that misfires despite giving them plenty of opportunities to do so) they still make for people you'd be happy enough to spend time with.

It is a testament to the cache that the duo have that the great and the good of the American comedy scene are happy to pop up and work with them, though the supporting turns, while amusing, aren't quite as funny as you would hope for.

While Kristen Wiig offers further evidence of her ability to transcend *Saturday Night Live* for movie success with a cute turn as an inadvertent kidnaper victim of Graeme and Clive, and Bill Hader and Joe Lo Truglio raise a fair few titters as a bumbling pair of lawmen, Jason Bateman is wasted as a straight-faced government agent.

Blythe Danner and Sigourney Weaver's appearances are casting

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

coups more than anything else.

The film is well marshalled by director Greg Mottola, whose success with *Superbad* and *Adventureland* marked him out as a suitable successor Edgar Wright (who had directed the previous Pegg and Frost films).

While perfectly at home with comedy, Mottola brings a nice visual sensibility to the film, while also managing to wring plenty of heart out of the surface bawdiness.

While undoubtedly entertaining, the main problem with *Paul* is that it all feels a little underwhelming.

You can't argue or fault Pegg and Frost's ambition to make more than just a comedy film but they don't quite hit the spot this time round.

The laughs come thick and fast, but by broadening their horizons the pair have somewhat blunted their comedy sword – making *Paul* an entertaining but ultimately slight piece of work.

VERDICT – A mixed outing for Simon Pegg and Nick Frost, *Paul* is funny, entertaining, but lacks the pair's attention to detail.

In thrall to the sci-fi influences that they love, non-geeks might not spot all the jokes that land, but will overlook that with Seth Rogen's hilarious vocal outing as the titular alien. *Enjoyable.*

NCT nearly new sale

A NEARLY new sale will be held at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, on Saturday, March 5 from 2pm-3.30pm (doors open 1.45pm) for NCT members with membership card.

Entrance/suggested donation £1/family. Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg prams) and maternity wear. Sellers contact Julie on 01656 662564 to

Vale pupils can get creative for royal horticultural show!

THE RHS Show Cardiff returns to the parklands of Cardiff Castle from April 8-10, giving the young people of the Vale the chance to be creative with their green fingers in the first Royal Horticultural Society outdoor show of the season.

Last April more than 24,000 visitors from across the UK enjoyed the best of the spring blooms from nurseries across the UK, with ideas for the growing season ahead.

Among the attractions were three schools from the Vale who took part in the 'Schools Wheelbarrows' competition. So far this year, four Vale schools have entered – Cogan Nursery, Gwenfio CIW Primary, Dinas Powys Infants and St Helen's Infants – and organisers



ABOVE: wheelbarrow in full bloom!

are looking for more.

The wheelbarrows are provided free of charge and youngsters have a free rein over design and content, or in order to promote recycling, organisers are offering any school who can source their own wheelbarrow £15 in gardening vouchers for materials to use on their designs.

More schools from the Vale are invited to enter.

Those interested should contact Ruth Mumford at r.mumford@cardiff.gov.uk

PLAID SURGERY

BARRY residents are invited to attend an advice surgery to discuss any issues or concerns.

Plaid councillors Caroline Turner and Barry Shaw will be joined by Keith Stockdale at Holton Primary School, Pyke Street, Barry from 11am until 12 noon on Saturday, February 26. No appointments are necessary.

GEM Pastures Green competition winner

THE winner of our recent competition to win a bouquet was Mr Ian Lewis of Miskin.

Congratulations and look out for more GEM competitions coming soon!

IN BRIEF

A ROTARY Show Case, will be held at the former OXFAM shop in Verity's Court near Simon Cycle shop and the Old Wool Barn, Cowbridge, on Saturday, February 26.

President David Pierce said: "This is a great opportunity for the people of Cowbridge to see what rotary is all about."

Members of the club will be there from 10am-5pm to answer questions.

Beach clean
BARRY-BASED environmental group 'Friends of Barry Beaches' will be holding its next beach clean on Sunday, February 27, meeting at Jacksons Bay from 3pm.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D658.

● This week, the lottery was claimed by a lucky winner from Swansea who received a grand total of £12,000 with winning number 762795.

● £2,000: 752129.

● £10: 760124, 755393, 350218, 882848, 332793, 491056, 568261, 214900, 226934, 197820, 542853, 204406, 668228, 569709, 414690, 178803, 877731, 441404, 616261, 132898.

● £5: 640280, 341868, 451154, 359138, 702078, 232335, 243874, 142460, 960319, 581560, 795012, 610515, 586319, 182541.

514147, 299397, 886522, 690743, 902280, 182046, 191780, 667888, 700278, 332430, 111932, 414248, 802109, 136024, 903491, 599879, 305221, 417295, 423302, 745156, 342651, 746723, 358388, 226453, 722382, 656300, 246712, 619530, 804133, 461999, 497152, 683341, 168774, 131317, 636576, 230044, 177371, 275039, 780140, 896333, 861355, 464979, 383931, 731109, 133798, 646724.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Cats Protection, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9UJ
Tel: 01656 726621 • Fax: 01656 722012
Email: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk

Ginger needs a quiet life...



MEET Ginger, a handsome 7-year-old neutered male who came to Cats Protection Bridgend Adoption Centre when his owners couldn't afford to treat him after a car accident. He is fit and healthy now and needs a quiet life, having sadly lost a leg. He has a really sweet nature and would make a lovely addition to the family, the centre says.



Lions Club of Bridgend

Charity Book Fair

Friday/Saturday/Sunday
March 4th, 5th & 6th
9.00am - 5.00pm each day
Thousands of Bargains!!

at YMCA
Angel Street, Bridgend
Admission Free

Course for budding young script writers

THE School of Creative Arts at Bridgend College is launching a script writing course, entitled 'Script Slam' designed to help young writers in Bridgend develop script writing skills.

It will culminate in the composition of a 10-minute piece which will be performed at a Script Slam event in Bridgend College.

The course starts on Wednesday, March 2 and runs weekly between 5pm and 7pm for five weeks.



Glamorgan GEM

Food for Thought



THE CARNE ARMS SETS A HIGH STANDARD FOR DINING IN THE VALE

AT THE CARNE ARMS, Luke Weston has been in charge at the Carne Arms in Llyswoerney for almost four years now, looking after one of the oldest and most distinctive pubs in the Vale.

It is by no means the easiest place to build a reputation. After all, passing trade is difficult. Many drivers do

not even notice the pub, as their attention is drawn to the sudden narrowing in the road as it passes through the village.

However, on the evidence of The GEM's recent visit, anyone driving by the Carne Arms without taking notice is missing out, because Luke is providing fine food at prices that are, to be honest, probably too cheap.

I've been doing dining reviews for The GEM for eight years, and this was the first

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

time I found myself suggesting to the chef that he could let his prices move up a few quid!

The Carne Arms offers a varied menu in a cosy dining room, with a fire blazing on the open hearth, and it really is the quintessential Vale dining experience.

My guest and I surveyed a menu featuring nine starters (priced between £3.95 and £5.25), and we were similarly spoiled for choice on the main courses, with 16 options, from £7.50 to £13.95 (with one exception).

That exception is a 10oz peppered sirloin steak (£15.75) from the neighbouring Pwllwyrach Farm, a local connection that Luke is very proud of.

All the lamb and beef on the menu come from the farm, which is within walking distance of the Carne Arms, and he is proud of the strong local content on his menu.

My guest chose the soup of the day, a bro-

coli and stilton with home made bread, which she pronounced excellent. However, after extolling Luke's commitment to local produce, Murphy's Law came into play at this point, because I managed to choose the only far-flung dish on the menu!

Green lip mussels in a white wine, cream and garlic sauce, with homemade bread, was too tempting and, for the uninitiated, green lip mussels come all the way from New Zealand.

Comparing these monsters to south Wales mussels is like comparing Phil Bennett to Jonah Lomu!

Apart from these meaty mussels, the sauce was terrific, and I used all the (very nice) bread in mopping it up!

Moving on to the main courses, my guest tried the homemade pie (steak and ale) which came with roasted vegetables and new potatoes. Once again, it met with her total approval.

My main course featured eight-hour slow-braised shin of Pwllwyrach beef, flaked and set and served with horseradish mashed

potato, and roasted vegetables, and it is good to be able to say that everything on the plate worked well.

At £12.95, it was a great dish, and I loved the way Luke served a mixture of parsnips, carrots and other vegetables, all in a really tasty sauce. The beef, it almost goes without saying, was tender and full of flavour.

Anyone doing a restaurant review is tempted to quit while you are ahead, but the desserts turned out to be just great. My guest chose the sticky toffee pudding (£3.95) and cleared the plate, declaring it the best she had ever tasted!

I chose the bread and butter pudding (also £3.95), and it was the same for me, although I appreciate that different people expect different things from this dish.

All I can say is that if you like a light crisp topping, with a warm, mousse-like filling underneath, then this is the one for you!

Everything Luke serves is prepared in the kitchen from scratch, and he provides the sort of menu that makes you



ABOVE: An open fire in a fine old pub – The Carne Arms offers a quintessential Vale dining experience.

The Four Bells

Rock Road, St Athan, CF62 4PG

MARCH 2011

Celebrate St. David's Day - 1st March
Welsh themed lunch - 2 Courses £6.50

Saturday 5th March -
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St. Patrick's Day - March 17th
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Friday 18th March - Comic Relief Funday
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- Reservations now being taken for Mother's Day - April 3rd.

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This Saturday Night 26th February local charity event
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"Everything a local pub should be"

'New blood' call at Hall

RESIDENTS of Ynysawdre are being urged to attend the AGM of the Ynysawdre Community Association on Thursday March 17, at the hall, starting at 6pm.

There are nine places up for election on the committee and an influx of new blood is desperately needed.

Maureen Williams of BAVO – the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations – who is helping the association said it was hoped that new people will come forward.

She stated that if the minimum requirement of committee members

is not achieved, the existing trustees would be asking members to consider dissolving the charity.

In order to vote, people must complete a membership form which will be available on the day. A form can also be requested from BAVO in advance on 01656 810400.

A spokesman said that the hall was the focal point for the community and was needed. But many of the committee have been involved for some years and are standing down, which is why new people are required.

Mary Immaculate High School is 'on the up!'

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

EXCITING times lie ahead for Mary Immaculate High School following the recent Estyn inspection, which has identified the school as having made significant improvements.

The school has been through a troublesome period with a possible threat of closure, and also a very disappointing inspection in May 2009.

However, now that the plans to close the school have been scrapped, and Estyn has seen improvements, the school can now continue to rapidly improve and achieve its goal of being one of the leading schools in Cardiff and Wales.

The new headteacher, Marc Bell said: "I am delighted for everyone

associated with the school and faith community.

"The last few years have not been great for the school and there has been a shadow which has lingered over it.

"I have only been at the school for six months but I have already seen a difference.

"The Estyn report follows a very successful Local Authority Review in December and both recognise that the school has 'excellent' prospects for the future."

Asked about the approach to the school's rapid success, Marc responded: "My philosophy and approach to education has always been to keep things simple and get the basic things done very well. "I hear a lot of people

talk about schools in less affluent areas achieving less, but for me it is about giving every child the right to a high quality education.

"Catholic education was established to educate the less fortunate but, from what I have seen at Mary Immaculate, we have the finest students and families who genuinely want the best.

"My job is to ensure they get it and I will not rest until this is realised."

SAINTLY CAWL!

AGE CONCERN Barry is marking celebrations for St David's Day on Tuesday, March 1 at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry.

Welsh cawl and hot crusty bread will be available to buy and enjoy, from 9.30am-1.30pm. South Wales Fire Service will give advice on home safety (10am-11.30am).

For further information, contact 01446 732385.

NEWS FROM THE LLANTWIT MAJOR ROTARY CLUB

Local young musicians delight their audience

ON February 17, the annual Young Musicians competition took place in the magnificent concert hall of the new Cowbridge Comprehensive School building.

There were six competitors drawn from both Llantwit Major and Cowbridge schools who treated the audience to a wonderful display of talent and musicianship.

The Rotary rules required that competitors should play at least two contrasting pieces on non-amplified instruments.

Flautist Alison Jones played *Sunstreams* by Ian Clarke and the First Movement of Bach's *Sonata Number 6*. Hannah Clift, who played the cello, played the Fourth Movement of Franck's *Sonata*.

There were two pianists in the competition, Rosanna Forte and Jade O'Leary. Rosanna played the *Sonata in D minor* by Cimarosa and *Nocturne in C# minor* by Chopin.

Jade played Bach's *Prelude and Fugue No 12 in F minor* followed by Fats Waller's *Alligator Crawl*.

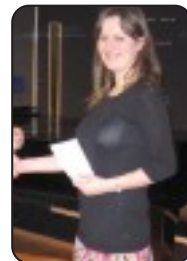
Katie Wynne and Hannah Ballinger both played the clarinet, and as the judges could not separate them in terms of their talent and musicality they were awarded joint second place.

Katie played Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto 1st Movement* and Malcolm Arnold's *Sonatina 1st Movement*.

Hannah played another piece by Mozart, namely the *Clarinet Quintet 1st Movement*, then went on to perform



ABOVE: The competitors are pictured with the judges.



WINNER:
Rosanna Forte.



ABOVE: Joint second winners Katie Wynne and Hannah Ballinger with club president Jasper Roberts.

Winners Samara and Stephanie head for 'Miss Wales' contest



Miss Wales, Courtenay Hamilton (left) with 'Miss Vale of Glamorgan' Samara Matthews.

ABOVE: Stephanie Lubbock who won Miss Bridgend.

ON February 11, Barry's Samara Matthews was crowned Miss Vale of Glamorgan at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on February 11.

The Miss Bridgend title was taken by Stephanie Lubbock.

Both Samara and Stephanie will take part in the Miss Wales final in July.

Participants in the 'Miss Vale', 'Miss Bridgend' and 'Miss Wales' competitions use them as vehicle to raise funds for the south Wales' children's charity The Joshua Foundation.

If people would like to see more pictures or videos of the events at the Grand Pavilion, they should go to www.valeevents.co.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plaid surgery:

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery to discuss any issues or concerns with Plaid councillors Caroline Turner and Barry Shaw, and Keith Stockdale, at Holton Primary School, Pyke Street, Barry, from 11am-12 midday on Saturday, February 26. No appointments are necessary.

Dance-fitness event aids children's hospital appeal



NINETY people from the Vale recently attended an event held by ZUMBA Barry – under the instruction of Christian Bullen.

They had been training for six weeks to get fit for the high energy, fun dance-fitness session at Barry YMCA Hub for the Noah's Ark Appeal.

The charity aims to build the second phase of its state-of-the-art children's hospital in Cardiff.

Christian Bullen, principal of Superstars in the Making

Performing Arts Academy, said: "It was an inspiration to see so many people from our community taking part, having fun, getting fit and raising money for such a good cause!"

"It is what community is all about. I would like to thank all who attended and donated at the door."

The event raised £370 and is to be matched by Barclays Bank to total £740. Superstars in the Making will be performing at The Hilton Hotel on

Sunday, February 27 for Noah's Ark, with guest star, Connie Fisher.



Mary Immaculate High School

Our rapidly improving school has a very limited number of places available in Year 7 for September

Admissions for Year 7

We were recognised as having the most improved results in Cardiff in 2010 and one of the most improved in Wales.

Under the new Leadership, Estyn inspected the school in January 2011 and found that the school has made "significant improvements". We are a school with "excellent prospects for the future" as identified by the local authority in December 2010. We now operate a waiting list for two of our year groups and we are becoming increasingly popular now that the schools future is fully safeguarded and results are improving rapidly.

We are a faith school but families of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. We, like you, want the best for your children and will ensure they achieve their full potential.

Application forms can be found on www.maryimmaculate.org.uk

"The new Leadership Team has improved the school's capacity to raise standards. With strong leadership from the Headteacher, it provides rigorous challenge and clear direction." Estyn, 2011

"The L.A. would judge that there are excellent prospects for improvement in the school, standard and long term." LA Review, 2010



Marie Curie Cancer Care provides high quality nursing, totally free, to give terminally ill people the choice of dying at home, supported by their families

The GEM is making a donation to Marie Curie Cancer Care as a result of this advertisement feature

Marie Curie
Cancer Care



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**COUNCILLOR
COLIN OSBORNE**

As Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, it gives me great pleasure to support

**Marie Curie Cancer Care
Daffodil Campaign**



**Y CYNGHORYDD
COLIN OSBORNE**

Fel Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
mae'n bleser mawr gennyf gefnogi

**Ymgyrch Cennin Pedr Gofal
Canser Marie Curie**

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Use Gift Aid and you can make your donation worth more, the extra pound you give us so, we get an extra 14 pence from the Inland Revenue at no extra cost to you. If you would like Marie Curie Cancer Care to treat all donations, you have made to us for the next year prior to the year, then not later than April 6, 2009, and all donations you make, however small you wish to inform us at Gift Aid. Donations, just tick here. ☐ Yes that's right. Today's date: / /

To show we value Gift Aid we will send you a letter from the Inland Revenue and we will also send you a letter from the Inland Revenue to show that the Inland Revenue has accepted your donation for Gift Aid purposes.

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Telephone _____

Please return this form to: Marie Curie Cancer Care, 89 Eastgate, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 3YR.

THIS March, Marie Curie Cancer Care is asking people to support the Great Daffodil Appeal.

A spokeswoman explained: "Wearing your daffodil this March helps us to continue caring for people with terminal cancer and other illnesses

"Each March, the Great Daffodil Appeal helps raise awareness about the work of Marie Curie Nurses and vital funds so that we can continue providing free care to people with terminal cancer and other illnesses.

"Marie Curie Cancer Care adopted the daffodil emblem because the flower is a widely-

recognised symbol of hope and renewal.

"But for those who have been touched by the work of Marie Curie, wearing the daffodil has a special and personal meaning.

Debbie Venham, a Marie Curie nurse, has a very personal reason for encouraging people to get involved in the appeal.

"I wear my daffodil pin because the moment I put it on, I am instantly filled with fond memories.

"Both my mother and sister died of cancer, and every March my pin is an extra reminder of my loved ones and the happier times we spent together."

To get your Daffodil pin badge and make a

donation, and for more information about the appeal, please go to: <http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/>; donations can also be made by ringing the local Welsh number 02920 426 068 (see coupon left).

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KARL
KUHNELL**
and members of
the Town Council

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Campaign every success



Bridgend Festivals Committee is a non profit making voluntary organisation who organise events within Bridgend County Borough. For details contact:
The Festivals Office, Cambria House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend. CF31 1EB
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ALL SAINTS PRIMARY PUPILS SHOW OFF THEIR LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

VALE AM Jane Hutt was a welcome visitor at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School.

Headteacher Richard Ware gave her a tour to show her the exciting learning environment the pupils now enjoy since the completion of an extensive building programme.

Ms Hutt visited each class in turn and spoke to the children about their work, which they were delighted to show her. She was impressed with the learning resource centre, which includes an ICT suite of 30 computers and a whiteboard so that whole-class lessons can take place.

She congratulated staff on achieving the BECTA ICT quality mark for excellence in the management and teaching of ICT.

Ms Hutt spoke to pupils achieving their national standards in cycling certificates, and to year-2 pupils taking part in kerbscraft road safety training.

She was then guest of honour at the reception class assembly on the theme of love, which pupils performed through music, poetry and drama and illustrated with their delightful art work. She then posed for a photograph with the class and their teacher, Mrs Forrester, Mr Ware and other staff.

Year-2 pupils presented the kerbscraft leaders with flowers and a thank-you card at the end and Ms Hutt joined parents and staff for refreshments.

She said that she enjoyed her visit very much and that the reception assembly was delightful.

Mr Ware warmly thanked Ms Hutt for once again taking time out of her busy schedule to take an interest in the school.

NM



Joint team win the Rotary Youth speaks competition – again!



The winning team from Bryn Hafren: Hannah Parker, Lili Beth James, and Rosie Loup James, with assistant governor Bob Gibbons.

A TEAM from Bryn Hafren and Barry Comprehensive sixth forms was again successful in the Rotary Youth Speaks competition for schools in the Vale, hosted by Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

This was the third time of competing in the senior competition for Rosie Loup James, Hannah Parker, and Lili Beth James and once more they walked away with the title.

Rosie was declared best chairperson, and Hannah best proposer.

Sophie Jenkins, Ashley Ringer, and Bethan Lewis of Stanwell were declared runners-up, with Bethan winning the prize for best opposer.



Hannah Parker – best proposer.



Rosie Loup James – best chairperson.

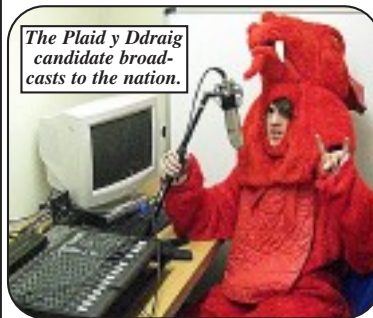
Judges Phil McCaffrey and Graeme Milnes of Cardiff Speakers Club complimented the teams on their professional performances and gave useful tips for improvement.

In presenting the prizes, Bob Gibbons, representing the South Wales District of Rotary, commended all the teams and said how impressed he had been.

Rosie, Hannah, and Lili now go on once again to represent the Vale at the South Wales final in Crickhowell on March 7, where they hope to better their achievement of being runners-up last year.

They will be joined by the junior team of Leah Robinson, Robin Tait and Owen Young from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, who had a bye in the second round.

NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg



The Plaid y Ddraig candidate broadcasts to the nation.



Victory for Plaid y Ddraig CITIZENSHIP day at Bro Morgannwg saw a wide range of activities being undertaken by the pupils.

Undoubtedly, the most popular event was an election fought by year-12 pupils. Five parties were formed, each with its own manifestos and the most successful party at the end of the day was Plaid y Ddraig.

Many thanks to Miss Wilson and year-12 BAC teachers for organising and assisting on the day.

Sports Transition Day

YEAR-6 pupils from the feeder schools visited Ysgol Bro Morgannwg



Siwan Clark of year-12

last week.

This was their second transition day and they thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a wide range of sporting activities.

Young performer CONGRATULATIONS to year-12 pupil Siwan Clark, who took part recently in courses run by the National Youth Theatre and the Youth Music Theatre UK.

It was an invaluable experience for her.



Jacob Ellis

Honour for Jacob

HEAD prefect Jacob Ellis has been chosen to be part of the BBC's People's Assembly – a group of 60 voters who will help show how the campaign is playing out in their communities.

Many of them will be giving their views on the BBC Wales news website, TV and radio ahead of the referendum in a few weeks time. Good Luck!

ABOVE:
Definitely a non-uniform day at school!

Everest challenge

A MAN who works as a family mediator in the Vale is setting out on the journey of a lifetime to raise money for homeless young people and vulnerable women in Wales.

In March, Steve Cottam and his brother Dan will be tackling Mount Everest in a bid to raise funds for the south Wales charity Llamau. Their 11-day climb will take them through the perilous Himalayas to base camp at Everest and on to the summit of Kalar Patar – 5,545m above sea level!

Steve, who works for Llamau as a family mediator in the Vale, said: "Every penny people donate will go to Llamau, and none of it will be used to pay for expenses of the trip. That expense will be covered by us personally."

To support the brothers, please go to www.justgiving.com/cottambrothers, or for more information about Llamau, visit www.llamau.org.uk.

Music workshop

ART 4 U is running a music workshop next Saturday at Canon Hill ArtSpace, Canon Street, Barry, on Saturday, February 26, 12pm-1.30pm.

There will be drums, chimes, bells, didgeridoos. No musical training required. For further information, e-mail glyn@glynpooley.com or telephone 07854 375891.

Ward surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills ward, Barry, Stuart Egan, Margaret Alexander and Pam Drake will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery on Saturday, February 26 from 10am-11.30am in Barry Town Council Office, Gladstone Road, Barry. No appointment is necessary.

'Miss Vale' and 'Miss Bridgend' competitors light up the stage at the Grand Pavilion

THE Miss Vale of Glamorgan and Miss Bridgend competitions were held at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on February 11 and GEM photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to capture the excitement of the evening.

Among the judges this year was the current Miss Wales, the Vale's very own Courtenay Hamilton. The event is all in a good cause with competitors raising money for The Joshua Foundation, a local children's charity.



A dazzling line-up at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion!



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
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Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



Courtenay Hamilton meets some of the competitors' supporters!



Countdown to school Saint's day eisteddfod



PUPILS at Ysgol Sant Baruc in Barry, preparing for their St David's Day eisteddfod, were joined the Vale AM Jane Hutt, at the school assembly.

She commented: "I enjoyed their Assembly Service with some splendid singing from the whole school. Afterwards I met the choir and admired the St David's Day mural that pupils had designed and painted."

'Privatisation is not the answer'

SO the Vale Council is planning on privatising public leisure facilities as a solution to its budget difficulties (Barry GEM, February 17)

As a regular user of the Barry Leisure Centre, I encounter a facility that is well-used, if not over-used, and which should have no difficulty generating a financial return for the council.

However, like most other users I am shocked by the appallingly bad maintenance of the facility.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the men's 'wet' changing rooms with their stinking toilets and perpetually missing and crumbling ceiling tiles.

Other Vale leisure facilities are in equally

bad or worse condition; there have been numerous letters complaining of the state of the Colcot Sports Centre, for example, whose facilities barely reach Third World standards of cleanliness and repair.

The problem in the Vale leisure centres is simply one of inadequate management. Before the council uses financial losses as a convenient excuse to sell off public property (for which they have no electoral mandate), they should carry out a full management restructuring, and above all insist on facility maintenance that shows respect for the service users and taxpayers of the Vale.

Dr Jonathan Murphy, Barry

READER'S VIEW

Llantwit councillors canvass local views



Couns Bob Gant, Dave Lane, and Molly Lane along with Angela Jones Evans the Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale.

LLANTWIT MAJOR
Conservative town councillors hit the streets of the town last weekend to listen to the views of local people.

Town Mayor and local branch chairman Coun Ralph Austin said: "Our councillors had plenty of concerns expressed to them on the day - empty shops, what is happening to the

local leisure centre, beach access, the HSBC bank closure and loss of trade caused by the current works in Boverton Road.

"In some cases, we were able to provide useful information and clarify rumours which were incorrect.

"On other issues which we could not resolve there and then, we promised to contact people and inform them of results."

Barry High Street Traders announce latest draw winner



Mrs John receives her prize.

BARRY High Street Traders have announced that the lucky winner in their 'Raffle' sign, buy a ticket and who knows you could be the next lucky winner," said Anthony Hopkins.

"There are £100 of shopping vouchers to be won every month and the winning ticket will be drawn live on Bro Radio on the 12th of every month just after the midday news.

"Tune into 98.1FM to hear some great music, local community news and to find out if you have the winning ticket."

Back by "popular demand" and to help fund events throughout the year, High Street Traders are holding a raffle every month.

Here's a chance to walk barefoot on hot hot embers or glass!

IT'S not a challenge for the faint hearted - a barefoot walk over a 20-foot bed of burning embers - or if that's a bit too hot, you could try walking a 12-foot bed of glass!

The Cat Protection League's adoption centre in Brynecethin is staging the event aimed at fearless cat lovers to raise funds for the work of the charity.

Participants will have the chance to walk across wood embers smouldering at 800 degrees without experiencing any pain or injury.

People who have already done the firewalk can go one step further and walk across a bed of smashed sterilised wine bottles.

The event takes place at the centre on April 16 and all funds raised will help the organisation cope with the large numbers of unwanted cats and kittens who are taken in to the centre to be rehomed.

Last year's firewalk

raised £12,000 and it is hoped this year's event will raise even more.

Coun Jeff Tildesley of Cornelly, who has already braved the coals when he was borough mayor, will be doing the glass walk this time.

He said: "Please come along and support the charity's fundraising day. It's so important to raise money for these cats.

Tony John, director of Shepherd's the vets, who are sponsoring the event, said that they considered it an honour to sponsor and take part in this event, following the great success of the firewalk last year.

Participants need to pay a £25 registration fee and to agree to a fundraising target of £100 in order to take

part. Training sessions will be given before the event by fire and glass-walking experts who will be on hand throughout the evening.

Centre manager Sue Dobbs said: "I took part in the firewalk last year and found it to be a brilliant, inspirational experience and would highly recommend it to anyone thinking about taking part.

"I am very excited to be taking part in the glass walk this year."

Firewalking is an ancient religious and spiritual practice, with the first recorded firewalks taking place in India 3,000 years ago.

Anyone wishing to take part should contact the Bridgend Adoption Centre on 01656 726621.

Motor caravan rally to come to Porthcawl?

ATTEMPTS are being made to stage a motor caravan rally at Porthcawl RFC in 2012.

The Motor Caravanners Club has written to Porthcawl Town Council, asking for consent to stage the event at an unspecified date on the rugby ground.

An attempt to hold a rally there in May last year failed at the last minute because permission from Bridgend County Borough Council (CBCB) was withheld.

Organiser Mr WR Hartland said that although they managed to find an alternative site in Nottage last year, some members found it too far out of town and a site nearer to the town

and its facilities was needed.

Coun Barbara Stubbs said that she was amazed that the letter was sent to the town council, as the land is owned by CBCB. It is nothing to do with the town council.

She said that she had been involved last year with residents who were concerned about the plans and she said CBCB turned it down because it was in breach of the lease the rugby club holds on this land.

"Nothing has changed since last year," she added. "They know that CBCB will turn this down."

It was agreed to write to the club and inform them that they must contact CBCB. The letter will also be forwarded to CBCB.

GREEN LIGHT GIVEN FOR SCIENCE FUN!



Students and 4a teacher at Ysgol Bryn Castell in the science workshop with GCCS.

YSGOL Bryn Castell received a visit recently from Green Chemistry Consulting Services (GCCS), the education arm of Elixir Body Care Ltd who, in conjunction with Education Business Partnership, present fully interactive, 'hands-on', green science workshops to students of all ages and abilities.

These workshops give the students an excellent opportunity to experience what the real world of work is like in the cosmetics industry.

A spokeswoman said: "The students were learning the chemistry behind the manufacture of fizz bombs and the part that carbon dioxide plays in all our lives today."

Penarth author's new book

'BEYOND the green mist' is a children's fantasy story based on local authoress Christine Abbott-Young's daughter Leah, whose dream-world at the bottom of the garden is the inspiration for a tale of green mist, coalmines and a little one-inch high friend called Sapphire.

There are, of course, goodies and baddies, friends and bullies and extraordinary adventures.

This limited edition (A4 142 pages) can be obtained from the Lifestyle Shop, Glyndwr Road, Penarth at £5.99.

A rather mixed day for Barry under-8s

BARRY under-8s travelled to play Cowbridge in two very close encounters.

In the first game, the visitors were slow out of the blocks and played the first half in second gear.

Following a stern talking to at the break, the boys and girls went on to play a very attractive running game.

Barry lost the first match 4-3 with tries from C Saunders, E

Galsworthy, and J Couch.

In the second match, Barry ran out 9-6 winners with tries from C Saunders, J Couch, Z Fifield, E Galsworthy (two) and D Parry-Griffiths (four).

Cowbridge played their part in both matches showing some great passes and handling.

Well done to all the boys and girls who took part; a great example for tag rugby in the Vale.

LS

Invite to residents over Barry Island's future

BARRY ISLAND residents are being offered the chance to get involved in planning the Island's future.

The Vale Council is holding a series of planning workshops for residents at the Old Railway Station building on Barry Island.

At the workshops, participants and council officers will look at what land might be available for development, how access and parking at the Island might operate and what schemes the council could consider.

Coun Rhodri Traherne, cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, said: "The intention is to examine ideas and possible

schemes for the island. It is vital that we have the views of local people in order to take forward any future development."

The workshops are planned for March 8, 10am to 12pm; March 9, 2pm to 4pm and March 10, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Barry Island residents who are interested in attending can log their interest by visiting the council's web site www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or by calling the contact centre on 01446 700111.

Council officers from the planning, tourism and project management teams will organise invitations in due course.

Swim a length and raise cash for cancer care funds

A SWIMMING scheme that aims to raise vital funds for Breast Cancer Care has been extended until the end of half-term in the Vale.

A spokesman said that 'Lengths for Life', supported by the Vale Council's leisure centres, calls on swimmers of all abilities to swim as many lengths or widths of a pool as they can in an hour - to raise sponsorship money for the new Breast Centre Cardiff & Vale at Llandough Hospital.

All participants can take to the water for free to complete their 'Lengths for Life' in the pools at the leisure centres in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major. The scheme has been running since the start of the year, and its extension was celebrated at Llantwit Major leisure centre, where current Miss Wales, Courtenay Hamilton, returned to the pool where she spent three years as a part-time swimming instructor.

Courtenay (20), from St Donats, urged families

to get involved with 'Lengths for Life' during half-term: "This is a great scheme as not only does it promote the importance of health and fitness, but also raises money for a fantastic cause."

ITV Wales news presenter Justina Simpson, who is spearheading the campaign, said: "Myself and the whole team at Breast Centre, who are all part of raising funds, are delighted that so many people have been willing to give up their time so far to help people in Cardiff and Vale with Breast Cancer."

"However, we are a long way from reaching our target and we would call on everyone to take part in 'Lengths for Life' during half term. If people don't want to swim, you can still make a donation. Every penny will help turn the centre into a world class service and give people in our community the very best treatment and hope."

To find out more about how you can take part, or donate, visit www.lengthsforlife.com



Miss Wales Courtenay Hamilton joined pupils from Llanilltud Fawr Primary School at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre to urge youngsters in the Vale to take to their local pools and support 'Lengths for Life' during half-term.

Young judges are champs at Malvern



Competition success!

PHOTO BY WYNNE DAVIES

THE Glamorgan Welsh Pony and Cob Society (WPCA) won the national champion young judges competition 2010 at the Welsh national inhand championship horse show in Malvern.

The team consisted of Gail Butler, Robyn Howell and Bethan Hooper. Robyn was presented with the Wales and Border Counties Horse Show Association's President's Cup for her achievements.

The girls were also awarded the title of Glamorgan WPCA young ambassadors 2011.

It has been a very successful year for the Glamorgan WPCA with many of its members winning at national and county shows, including the Royal Welsh Show and the national inhand championships and doing well at Horse of the Year show.

They hold regular shows and meetings during the year to promote the Welsh ponies and cobs. New members always most welcome.

LAURA EVANS

Titles awarded at Sea View angling evening

THE Sea View lads have announced the winners of their titles for 2010 with a few new faces joining the ranks of the regulars.

Mickey Langford, a familiar name, again took the coveted angler of the year title, along with being shore angler of the year.

Mickey also shared the shore doubles title with Glyn Warner, while Robert Ashford was the boat angler of the year.

Dan Roderick won both the boat and shore junior titles and the mid-week evening competition title was taken by Paul Coles.

The heaviest one day weight caught from the shore was 29lb by Richard Lougher, while John Cushen had the largest one day boat weight with 84lb.

Dan Roderick's father, Peter, landed a new club record flounder of 2lb 7oz while Kevin Gardner did the double, winning both the Bert Peterson and Wyndham Page memorial trophies; Wyndham's son, Andy, won the Eddie Frost Trophy.

This year looks promising with codling running and we look forward to large bags of rays, dogs and maybe even an early run of hounds.

JC

Vale golf club looks to attract a wider public in the future

A VALE golf club says that innovation and diversification could be the way to survive the current difficult economic times.

Cottrell Park GC is aiming to be a year-round attraction for members and non-members alike, a strategy that has been reinforced by two successive cold winters where the course was out of commission for several weeks.

The most unusual new idea is a nature trail that will be open to patrons for walking and jogging.

A fleet of 'Segways' will be available later in the year; and the two wheel machines will be used on the nature trail, which will surround the 400 acre golf complex.

Another addition is the clearing of a lake aptly called the secret lake, where again members and patrons will be allowed to fish for free.

A club spokeswoman said: "For golf clubs, supply now far outweighs demand due to an increase in the 'Nomadic' golfer - those that play golf but are not a member of a club."

"This increasing market of golfers has made a huge impact on membership levels in golf clubs across the UK and with levels dropping, more and more clubs are removing their initial joining fees and offering more flexible membership packages."

"However, this is not enough in the current economic climate and reports are growing of courses closing and going into receivership, despite their attempts to attract this decreasing market."

"Gone have the days where people were desperate to join their local club and happy to hand over thousands of pounds for the privilege."

"Individuals have now been given the power of choice with an array of competitive memberships to choose from."

Cottrell Park's answer is in the introduction of new activities for its members, as well as for friends and family.

The activities include two surround golf simulators, the first of their kind in Wales, that will allow members free use if the courses are closed due to



ABOVE: Cottrell Park general manager Derek Smith gets to grips with a Segway.

inclement weather.

Two full-sized snooker tables and two pool tables will be available to members free of charge, and to the public for a small fee.

The general manager of the club, Derek Smith, said: "These new activities are geared for not only the benefit of its members but also their friends and family."

The new social marketing approach is a new concept for the club and its hoped it will soon be leading the way for others to follow."

The Vale under-11s are pipped by Pontypridd's power pack

ON a firm but sticky pitch at the Old Penarthians, the Vale under-11 rugby team were narrowly beaten by Pontypridd Schools, 10-12.

In the first half, the Vale team linked well through backs and forwards, with Bevan Howell and Rhys Durlucia to the fore, combining well with Rhys Bradshaw, Ben Jones and Sam Corkhill.

Vale were awarded a penalty for offside and shipped it quickly through the backs for Rhys Jones to sprint down his right wing to score in the corner.

Pontypridd hit back, using their bulkier forwards but Reuben Williams, Jack Lee and Jake Griffiths led by example and drove into each tackle as if their lives depended on it.

The first half finished 5-nil to the Vale, after a series of forward drives by Ponty, who went close to scoring.

Early in the second half, Ponty drew level with a fine individual try by their outside half, who dummied and sprinted past tacklers from a scrum 30 metres out.

The team try of the match went to the Vale after Rhys Durlucia, Jake Griffiths and Haaris Khan combined well, driving Ponty back then releasing their speedy backs, with Luke Beattie on the left wing. Recycled ball saw Ioan Williams feed Ben Jones



and Joeff Williams, who was tackled on the try line.

From the scrum, Vale retreated but Reuben Williams emerged from a maul 40 metres out, spotting a gap on the blind-side and galloped in to score in the corner (10-5 to the Vale).

With five minutes to play, the Vale needed to keep the ball and stop the Ponty comeback, but a twist of fate saw Ponty pinch the ball in contact and ship it to their speedy wing, who rounded the defence to score near the posts, converting to make the score 10-12.

In the Old Pens clubhouse, both captains thanked the opposing teams for the challenge in the match, the referee for his efforts, coaches, parents and caterers.

Vale squad: Jake Griffiths, Max Lucas, Fin Davies, Jack Little, Max Cunningham, Reuben Williams, Haaris Khan, Jack Lee, Sam Corkhill, Jac Roberts, Rhys Durlucia (captain), Ioan Williams, Ioan Lewis,

Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Jones, Bevan Howell, Joeff Williams, Luke Beattie, Ben Jones, Harrison Ashby.

DW

ABOVE: Joeff Williams making a tackle in midfield

Mixed bag for Penarth Windsor LTC

PENARTH Windsor LTC experienced mixed fortunes in the men's weekend matches.

The second team continued its successful season with a resounding win away at Caerphilly.

The Windsor line-up of John Cox, Peter Bellingham, John Adamson and Jason Gill took the match 3-1, keeping their promotion hopes alive.

Meanwhile, the Windsor first outfit of Jason Richards, Dan Hughes, Ian Hughes and Elliott Richards failed to follow in the footsteps of the seconds, going down

by two games at Neath Glamorgan, dealing a blow to their promotion prospects.

In recent weeks the mixed veterans team has notched up notable victories against strong opposition.

Playing away against a previously unbeaten Dinas Powys side, Tim Hartland, Cathy O'Doherty, Peter Bellingham and Edwina Gill won by just three games.

On home turf against Cowbridge, Tim Hartland, Leanne Mackey, Peter Bellingham and Edwina Gill won by six games.

NG

Vale planning proposals

Coastal Oil and Gas Limited - Unit 1, Llandow Industrial Estate, Cowbridge - drill and test the in situ lower limestone shale and associated strata.

Mr Jodrell - Colomendy, Highlight Lane, Barry - rear ground floor extension and dormer loft conversion.

Ms Claire Morgan - 12 Wine Street, Llantwit Major - change of use of property to single residential dwelling house (including external alterations).

Mr DW Thomas - land north of Pancross Farm, Llancarfan - construction of biogas plant.

Mr Robins - 10 Kenyon Close, Rhos - lean-to conservatory to rear of dwelling.

KMS Components Limited - KMS, Terra Nova Way, Penarth - extension to existing building.

Mrs Maureen Harvey - 27 Stacey Road, Dinas Powys - single storey rear extension.

Mr Darren Evans - 32 Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry - single storey extension to side and rear of property, incorporating a garage.

Mr Jim Brooks - 6 Herbert Terrace, Penarth - retrospective application for the retention of lean-to secure storage.

Mr Gareth Thomas - Badgers Hollow, Graig Penlyn - remove condition No 6 of planning consent 2008/01524/FUL for a single detached dwelling at land to the rear of Chestnut Tree Cottage, Graig Penlyn.

Mr Ian Williams - Ashley House Farm, Sutton Road, Llandow - proposed building.

Mr and Mrs Ed and Louise Wilding - 3 Castlewood Cottages, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys - two storey rear extension.

One Stop Stores Limited - Broad Street Motors, Broad Street, Barry - installation of an external ATM machine and installation of six security anti ram raid bollards.

Mr Ken Broad - Broadacres, Cog Road, Sully - outline application for the erection of two detached dwellings. Mr and Mrs Paul and Louise Williams - 12 Coleridge Avenue, Penarth - two storey extension to side and existing single storey extension to rear extended.

Mr Peter Anstey - Ty Fry Farm, Pendoylan - proposed building for storage of hay/straw.

Mr Deeks - 12 Uppercliff Drive, Penarth - tiled roof porch to front of dwelling.

CARDIFF & THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIPS AND FINAL LEAGUE FIXTURE, TRELAI PARK

Disappointing outing for Vale schools

WHILE the Vale schools can feel pleased with the turn-out of boys at the third and final Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools, which incorporated the championships, there will be disappointment at the level of success.

More than 350 boys were entered, with the Vale schools and Barry College providing 126 of the 342 finishers – but Penarth's Stanwell Comprehensive claimed the only local success with a league and championship double in the year-7 competitions.

In the individual championships, there were second place finishes for Spencer Robinson (Stanwell) and the much improved Alex Simon (Llantwit) in the year-7 and under-20 sections respectively, while Ben Owen (Llantwit) and Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive) were third in the years 8 and 9 boys and under-17 competitions.

In addition to Stanwell's win at year-7, the only Vale school to claim a top three placing was Llantwit, second in the seniors.

In the league competitions, what looked to be a very tight competition in the under-12 (year-7) section proved to be an easy win for Stanwell, and a final points total of 74 out of a maximum of 75.

Sadly, Bro Morgannwg, with third in the seniors, was the only other Vale school to take a top three placing after the three league fixtures.

Awards for the championship and league competitions will be given out at the annual Cross-Country presentation evening, which will be held at Bro Morgannwg on Wednesday, May 11, starting at 7pm.

Vale Results CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Boys – 5.7 km – Years 10+ – 92 finishers: Individuals – 3 Matthew Edwards (Barry Comp, U17, 3) 21:12; 4 Rory Heslop (Bro Morgannwg, U17, 4) 21:21; 8 Alex Simon (Llantwit, U20, 2) 22:10; 12 Matthew Collins (Barry Comp, U17, 8) 23:18; 15 Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg, U20, 5) 23:32; 16 Elliot Clissold (Barry Comp, U17, 11) 23:41; 17 Darren Jones (Llantwit, U20, 6) 23:44; 19 Dan Owen (Llantwit, U17, 12) 23:57; 22 Rhys George (Bro Morgannwg, U20, 9) 24:08; 23 Tom Howles (Llantwit, U20, 10) 24:17; 35 Meirin Evans (Bro Morgannwg, U17, 24) 25:26; 39 Sam Peterken (St Cyres, U17,

25) 25:55; 43 Ieuan Jones (Stanwell, U17, 29) 26:14; 44 Connor Ogden (Barry Comp, U17, 30) 26:16; 46 Elliot Parry (Llantwit, U17, 31) 26:22; 49 Curtis Searle (Barry Comp, U17, 34) 26:40; 52 Richard Lewis (Barry Comp, U17, 37) 26:48; 53 Curtis Hayes (Barry Comp, U17, 38) 26:52; 54 Will Teague (Llantwit, U17, 39) 26:54; 55 Rowan Miller (Llantwit, U17, 40) 26:56; 56 Tom Morgan (Cowbridge, U17, 41) 26:59; 59 Josh Callis (Barry Comp, U17, 44) 27:11; 61 Tom Griffiths (Bro Morgannwg, U17, 45) 27:13; 62 Tom Parker (Llantwit, U17, 46) 27:14; 64 Jason Sami (Cowbridge, U17, 48) 27:28; 66 Zac Ledbetter (Barry Comp, U17, 50) 27:34; 67 Tamas Barry (Stanwell, U17, 51) 27:47; 68 Morgan Williams (Bro Morgannwg, U17, 52) 28:00; 72 Emyr George (Bro Morgannwg, U17, 56) 28:41; 74 Raffi Shirzad (Cowbridge, U17, 58) 28:57; 75 Michael Coles (Bro Morgannwg, U17, 59) 28:59; 76 Jacob Briscoe (Bro Morgannwg, U17, 60) 28:59; 77 Adam Hewitt (Cowbridge, U17, 61) 29:00; 81 Gareth Pilcher (Bro Morgannwg, U17, 65) 29:36; 82 Tom Russell (Bro Morgannwg, U17, 66) 29:40; 84 Gareth Crapnell (Barry Comp, U17, 68) 29:55; 85 Xavier Rickard (Cowbridge, U17, 69) 30:07; 86 Jack Wilcox (Cowbridge, U17, 70) 30:09; 87 Dan Newman (Cowbridge, U17, 71) 30:27; 89 Kyle Garrison (Barry College U20, 18) 30:38; 90 Stuart Fleming (Cowbridge, U17, 72) 30:52.

Teams

2 Llantwit Major 67; 4 Barry Comprehensive 75; 5 Bro Morgannwg 76; 11 Barry Comprehensive B 213; 12 Llantwit Major B 217; 16 Cowbridge 271; 17 Bro Morgannwg B 276; 19 Cowbridge B 348. Year 8 and 9 Boys – 4.1 km – 114 finishers: Individuals – 3 Ben Owen (Llantwit) 15:55; 4 Dafydd George (Bro Morgannwg) 15:57; 9 Tom Rawlings (Llantwit) 17:03; 12 Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry Comp) 17:21; 13 Gareth Hurman (Barry Comp) 17:24; 17 Rian Thomas (Cowbridge) 17:49; 27 Tom Owen (Cowbridge) 18:32; 28 Ellis Rosser (Cowbridge) 18:36; 29 Rhys Evans (Bro Morgannwg) 18:38; 36 Iwan Thomas (Bro Morgannwg) 18:59; 37 Dan Ladner (Barry Comp) 19:00; 39 Liam Tanner (Barry Comp) 19:04; 43 Andrew Young (Barry Comp) 19:18; 49 Richard Dangerfield (Llantwit) 19:37; 53 Kristian Jones (Cowbridge) 19:44; 54

Report by PETER MORRIS Photographs by IAN DIXON

John Wardle (Barry Comp) 19:49; 58 Matthew Bennett (Bro Morgannwg) 19:57; 60 Iwan Mephm (Bro Morgannwg) 20:04; 61 AJ Harrihy (Barry Comp) 20:09; 62 Gavin Lewis (Bro Morgannwg) 20:10; 63 Harry Lambert (Barry Comp) 20:11; 79 Keelan Jones (Bro Morgannwg) 20:59; 80 Will Parker (Llantwit) 21:10; 81 Will Rees (Bro Morgannwg) 21:25; 86 Jethro Haines (Cowbridge) 21:40; 90 John Frazer (Barry Comp) 21:45; 94 Curtis Jones (Bro Morgannwg) 22:18; 95 Joshua Oaten (Bro Morgannwg) 22:19; 97 Alex Love (Cowbridge) 22:23; 99 Ben Popham (Bro Morgannwg) 22:32; 100 Shuan Amos (Bro Morgannwg) 22:33; 101 Matthew Bennett (Bro Morgannwg) 22:42; 103 Huw Bennett (Cowbridge) 22:52; 105 Jordan Lowe (Cowbridge) 22:54; 106 Ethan Darter (Llantwit) 22:55; 111 Gabe Cleary (Barry Comp) 23:03.

Teams

7 Barry Comprehensive 101; 8 Cowbridge 125; 9 Bro Morgannwg 127; 10 Llantwit Major 141; 16 Barry Comprehensive B 221; 19 Bro Morgannwg B 282; 23 Bro Morgannwg C 388; 24 Cowbridge B 391. Year 7 Boys – 3 km – 136 finishers: Individuals – 2 Spencer Robinson (Stanwell) 12:29; 4 Aled George (Bro Morgannwg) 12:39; 8 Ben McCullagh (Stanwell) 12:46; 9 Will Marsh (Stanwell) 12:50; 10 Dewi Bennett (Cowbridge) 12:54; 13 Jonathan Cummings (St Cyres) 13:02; 17 Sam Roberts ((St Cyres)) 13:16; 20 Alex Langrish (Stanwell) 13:22; 21 Luke Davidson ((St Cyres)) 13:25; 22 Dafydd Smith (Bro Morgannwg) 13:28; 23 Joshua Peterhon (Cowbridge) 13:31; 25 Sean Davies (Cowbridge) 13:31; 27 Jac Evans (Bro Morgannwg) 29:09; 29 Morgan Humphreys (Stanwell) 31; Cameron House (Stanwell); 32 Will Gale (Stanwell); 33 Iestyn Willey ((St Cyres)); 34 Ethan Hutchings (Stanwell); 37 Rhys Gardner (Llantwit); 40 Luke Jeffreys (Cowbridge); 41 Nick Mackey (Stanwell); 50 Ewan O'Sullivan (Bro Morgannwg); 63 Jacob Roberts (Cowbridge); 65 Jonathan Sparkes (Llantwit); 67 Jordan Davies (Llantwit); 69 Leo Kelly (Cowbridge); 70 Jake McNery (Barry Comp); 80 Ethan Lovell



Start of the senior boys race with Vale athletes Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive 67), Darran Jones (296) and his Llantwit team mate Alex Simon (295) and Ieuan Jones (Stanwell 574) all close to the head of the field.



The start of the year-7 boys race with Penarth-based pupils featuring prominently.



Second place in the year-7 race for Spencer Robinson, who led his Stanwell squad to a league and championship double.



Third place in the years 8 and 9 race for Llantwit's Ben Owen.

Stanwell 76 (11); 13 St Cyres 54 (8); 14 Barry College 17; 18 Westbourne 3. U14 – Years 8 and 9 – 4 Cowbridge 64; 6 Barry Comprehensive 62; 7 Bro Morgannwg 59; 8 Llantwit Major 49; 15 St Cyres 24; 16 Stanwell 21; 17 Westbourne 20; 18 St. Richard Gwyn 15. Under-12 - Year 7 – 1 Stanwell 74; 5 Alex Simon (Llantwit) 74; 6 Cowbridge 62; 7 St Cyres 56; 9 Bro Morgannwg 49; 10 Barry Comprehensive 43; 14 Llantwit Major 37; 16 St. Richard Gwyn 26. **Selection for the Aviva Welsh Schools Golden National Cross-Country Championships.** Following this fixture, the boys teams to represent Cardiff & the Vale of

Glamorgan district at the Golden Celebration Nationals, to be held at Brecon on Wednesday, March 16 were selected. The following Vale boys were included in the teams and reserves: Senior Boys – Team: Alex Simon (Llantwit); Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg); Darren Jones (Llantwit); Rhys George (Bro Morgannwg); Tom Rawlings (Llantwit); Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry Comp) Reserves: Rian Thomas (Cowbridge); Gareth Hurman (Barry Comp). Year-7 Boys – Team: Spencer Robinson (Stanwell); Aled George (Bro Morgannwg); Ben Owen (Llantwit); Will Marsh (Stanwell); Dewi Bennett (Cowbridge). Reserves: Jonathan Cummings (St Cyres); Sam Roberts (St Cyres); Alex Langrish (Stanwell); Luke Davidson (St Cyres).

COWBRIDGE MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY

Tries galore as both teams cut loose

A BRISK chilly day at the Cattle Market pitch saw the Cowbridge under-7s welcome the equally large Barry under-7s squad for four quarters of entertaining mini rugby.

The boys, resplendent in their new green and black training kit, were determined to put on a good show at home after so many away games and that's certainly how the game started, with both teams committed to attack.

Barry were first to score but this was quickly cancelled out by a fine pair of tries by Iolo Davies before, once again, the boys defended down the pitch as opposed to across it and allowed Barry back in to the game.

The boys were exchanging tries almost like for like as both teams forgot about any inking of defence, with Reuben Davies and Rhyddian Williams with their typical strong balanced running to the fore, ably supported by Harry Treharne, Lewys Robins finished off an excellent passing manoeuvre and Tom Brennan got just reward



Action from Cowbridge's mini and junior rugby section.

for all his hard work in defence by squeezing in for the last try to put the game beyond Barry. Final score, 11-9.

Scorers: Reuben Davies (three), Iolo Davies (two), Harry Treharne (two), Rhyddian Williams (two), Tom Brennan, Lewys Robins. Squad: Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Henri Cairns, Evan Davies, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies, Steffan Evans, Eithan Francis, Morgan Harris, Archie Lloyd, Rhys Pritchard, Lewys Robins, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Luke Tredwell, Harry

Treharne, Rhyddian Williams.

Under-11's v Barry

BARRY were the visitors for Cowbridge under-11s on Sunday.

There was due to be a round robin of fixtures but Llanishen failed to appear, which was frustrating to say the least. From the outset it was clear that although the Barry side were full of endeavour, there was a huge gulf in class and basic skills.

Cowbridge took control of the game and, despite playing a number of times in unfamiliar

positions, dominated their opponents in all aspects of play.

Up front Cowbridge enjoyed a huge amount of possession, while their backs used the ball superbly to go over for a number of tries. Bevan Howells, Ellis Simon, Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Davies and Evan Williams all finished off superb moves for a glut of first half scores.

The second half saw some exciting new combinations in the Cowbridge line up, notably Ioan Lewis at prop, a half back combination of Jac Roberts and Jake Griffiths, and two flying wingers in Dan Marshall and Tom Jose.

The quality of the home side's play continued with William Davies, Dylan Cottle, Max Cunningham, Oliver Reynolds and Tom Coates all making excellent contributions. As in the first half, Cowbridge would continue to dominate with tries from Sam Corkill, Morgan Gore, Tom Jose, Dan Marshall, Max Cunningham and Ellis Simon.

Late in the second half saw the debut of Jamie Howells, thanks mainly to the encouragement of his under-11 training buddies, and the Cowbridge flyer added a brace of tries before the end.

Thanks go to all the Barry players, who never gave up and showed immense character throughout the game.

Thanks to Dan Taylor who, despite suffering a broken arm for the third time, made the effort to come and support his teammates and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Squad: Bevan Howells, Daniel Marshall, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, Jamie Howells, Max Cunningham, Morgan Gore, Oliver Reynolds, Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

ML

Great day for Wales TKD

WHAT a brilliant start to the year for the students of Wales TKD.

Seven students travelled to Cardiff to enter the first stage of the Welsh Grand Prix at Eastern leisure centre, hosted by ITF Wales.

The day started at 9.30am with patterns; once again standards were high, but Jay Dupree took a well deserved gold.

Next up was the sparring and first up was Caitlyn Lewis; this was her first competition since joining the club, she had a brilliant fight and took a bronze medal.

Joshua Heaslip flew through the first round and went on to win silver, along with Emma Heaslip who also took silver.

Seren Dupree had a tough first round, but she'll be back for the next stage in June.

Bethan Ashford was the next competitor for the club and went on to take silver in the under-17 category, as did Robert Heaslip, who also took silver in his weight division.

Last but not least was Jay Dupree, who again had a tough bout but came away with bronze.

The last event was special technique, flying



sidekick over two poles gradually getting further apart; Joshua kept going and going and came away with a silver medal.

A total of eight

medals were won - well done everyone.

For more information please visit our website, www.walestkd.co.uk or call 07731090305.

GL

ABOVE: The students of Wales TKD, who won eight medals at the Welsh Grand Prix event in Cardiff.

Pumas go clear at the top

THIS first meeting between the Pumas and Legal & General Athletic was a close and hard fought game.

Pumas opened the scoring when Scott Christopherato's shot from 25 yards out found the top left hand corner. Legal and General deservedly equalised after applying some good pressure, but Pumas came close to regaining the lead back when Dean Hyde scuffed his shot wide.

Soon after the break Barry Pumas were 2-1 up thanks to Jamie Randall playing an inch perfect pass for Callum Taylor to guide past the keeper.

Legal and General were awarded a penalty after a harsh handball decision against Danny Field-Thomas, however, Matthew Davie went the correct way to pull off a fine save.

Barry Pumas are now three points clear at the top of Lazarou league division 3.

MORGAN STEPHENS

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC JUNIOR ROUND-UP

Close encounters of the Pentyrch kind!

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-8s joined the under-7s team and travelled to Pentyrch RFC.

Pentyrch and Llantwit Major decided to field nine players making this a very competitive match.

Both teams started off at pace with Pentyrch scoring the first try, but Llantwit came back with a well-worked move and a try from Jacob Hunt.

Pentyrch scored a further six tries, but this wasn't enough against a very determined Llantwit team, who scored seven tries. Two came from Kieran Daw, another for Jacob Hunt, and one apiece for Kofi Jones, captain Jonathan Bramhall and Morgan Thomas.

Final score for the first game was Pentyrch 7, Llantwit Major 8.

The second game was started with ten-a-side and was a much harder game for Llantwit.

The team allowed Pentyrch to punish them with a couple of early tries, but tries came from Kieran Daw, Kofi Jones (two), Garin Evans and man of the match Bradley Claxton, who decided to use route one and run through the Pentyrch defence, taking a few of them with him.

Final score for the second game was Pentyrch 5, Llantwit Major 5.

Well done to all the players, and all in all a good morning of rugby, enjoyed by all who watched.

Thanks to all the parents who turned up to support both teams.

MD

Pentyrch v Llantwit Major under-7s

CAPTAIN Aled Brace led the team out, but Pentyrch scored the first try.

PT

Gŏrlir Aml Eidd Hamgylchedd

DEDDF RYBYD GWYLLT A CHEFN GWLAD 1981 (FEL Y DIWYGIWYD)

HYSBYSU SAFLE O DDIDDORDEB HYSBYSDOL ARBENNIG O DAN ADRAH 28 (1)

Rhoddor rhyddid trwy hyn bod Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru yn ystyried y safleoedd islaw yn Safleoedd o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig (SoDdGA).

Graig Penllyn Larks Meadows

Ueolir SoDdGA Graig Penllyn i'r dwyrain o Graig Penllyn a 3 km i'r gogledd-orllewin o Y Bont-faen yn Awdurdod Unedol Bro Morgannwg ac mae'n ymestyn dros arwynebedd o 1.3 hectar. Canolir y safle ar Cylleirnod Grid Cenedlaethol SS 979776.

Ueolir SoDdGA Larks Meadows 1 km i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o Marroes a 7 km i'r de-orllewin o Y Bont-faen yn Awdurdod Unedol Bro Morgannwg ac mae'n ymestyn dros arwynebedd o 3.5 hectar. Canolir y safle ar Cylleirnod Grid Cenedlaethol SS931702.

Mae'r ddau safle o ddiddordeb arbennig oherwydd ei laswellir niwtral sy'n gyfaethog mewn rhyngwogaethau.

O dan yr hysbysiad hwn mae'n rhwymol i bob perchnog a ddilaid hysbysu'r Cyngor am nae gweithrediadau arbennig a allai amharu o ddiddordeb arbennig y safle. Gall methu â gweithd hynny fod yn gyflysyr â throsedd.

Nid yw'r hysbysiad hwn yn rhoi unrhyw hawliau mynediad i SoDdGA Graig Penllyn a Larks Meadows.

Gall unrhyw an sydd â diddordeb yn y tir wneud sylwadau ynghylch yr hysbysiad yn ysgifedig at y Cyngor yn y cyfeiriad isod erbyn 24 Mehefin 2011.

Gellir cael manylion llawn am yr hysbysiad gan gynnwys map, disgrifiad o'r safle a rhestr o weithrediau a allai fod yn niweidiol a darganid o faru y Cyngor am neillir tir oddi wrth:

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, 7 Cwrt Castleton, Ffordd Fortran, Llanelwng, Caerdydd CF3 8LT

Ffôn 02920 772400

Caring for our Environment

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)

NOTIFICATION OF SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST UNDER SECTION 28 (1)

Notice is hereby given that the Countryside Council for Wales considers the following to be Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Graig Penllyn Larks Meadows

Graig Penllyn SSSI is located to the east of Graig Penllyn and 3 km north west of Cowbridge in the Unitary Authority of Vale of Glamorgan and covers an area of 1.3 hectares. Centred on National Grid Reference SS 979776

Larks Meadows SSSI is located 1 km north east of Marroes and 7 km south west of Cowbridge in the Unitary Authority of Vale of Glamorgan and covers an area of 3.5 hectares. Centred on National Grid Reference SS931702.

Both sites are of special interest for their species-rich neutral grassland.

Under these notifications there is a requirement on all owners and occupiers to notify the Council of certain operations which may damage the special interest of the site. Failure to do so may constitute an offence.

These notifications do not confer any rights of access to Graig Penllyn SSSI or Larks Meadows SSSI.

Any person with an interest in the land may make representations regarding either notification in writing to the Council at the address below by 24 June 2011.

Full details of the notifications, each including a map, site description and list of potentially damaging operations and a statement on the Council's views about the management of the land, can be obtained from:

Countryside Council for Wales, 7 Castleton Court, Fortran Road, St Mellons, CARDIFF CF3 8LT

Telephone: 02920 772400

VALEWAYS WALKS IN MARCH

ON March 1 at 1.30pm, Wenvoe Past and Present; meet at the car park at the rear of Wenvoe Arms, Wenvoe.

On Sunday, March 6 at 2.30pm, 'Up the Cwt'. Meet at Portobello House car park south of river, Ogmere Down. On March 10 at 1.30pm, Limestone and Bluebells. Meet at the car park opposite Fox & Hounds, St Brides Major.

Lets!

Meadowcroft	1 bed house	£375 pcm
Courtland's	2 bed flat	£495 pcm
Bullfinch Road	2 bed house	£475 pcm
Purdey Close	2 bed house	£525 pcm
Pinewood Square	2 bed house	£525 pcm
Shackleton Close	3 bed house	£550 pcm
Ty Gambig	3 bed luxury apartment	£695 pcm
Usk Way	4 bed detached house	£800 pcm
The Parade	Executive 6 bed house	£1300 pcm
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The 'Shankers Golf Society' celebrates its 30th birthday

A LOCAL golf society has just celebrated its 30th birthday.

The Prince of Wales 'Shankers' Golf Society, named after the local pub in Coychurch, has proved its longevity over 30 years.

The captaincy of the society changes every year and it was rookie captain, Huw Rodgers, who had the honour during 2010.

Huw - a member of both the Coed-y-Mwstwr and Southerdown Golf Clubs - is a keen charity fundraiser and has faced substantial challenges, with two cycle rides from John O'Groats to Lands End in recent years. He also climbed Kilimanjaro with the Welsh rugby captains, raising £10,000 for the Velindre Cancer Charity - all after undergoing major knee surgery.

Recognised by the 'Shankers' distinctive and strict dress code of Plus 2s and branded golf shirts, the 13-strong team of dedicated golfers spread their net wide. Last year for the first time since they were founded, they played a match against another Shankers Golf Society, made up of players across the UK. The match was played



ABOVE: The Shankers dressed in their very smart 'away strip'.

on May 2, at Tracy Park Golf Club, Bristol. One person flew in from Spain and two from Scotland for a match which is now set to be a regular event in the golfing calendar.

The match, was won by The Prince of Wales 'Shankers' and all are looking forward to the return game this year.

In August the society held a dinner dance at Southerdown Golf Club to celebrate 30 years of dedicated golfing tradition. Guests included the captain of Southerdown, Ron Meadows, who pitted his skills against 'Shanker' Brian David. Mr David won the closely-fought match, claiming the coveted 30th anniversary trophy.

It was a black tie affair and awards were presented for 'best

guests' and 'best Shankers'. Mrs Ann Coleman, president of the society, had the pleasure of presenting trophies and prizes to the winners during the evening, which concluded with dancing and singing into the early hours.

Every year (usually in October) the Prince of Wales 'Shankers' Society arranges a weekend away, inviting wives and partners to join them. This year was no exception and the society went to Tenby, staying at the Fourcroft Hotel. Matches were played at various golf clubs over three days.

On Friday, the 'Shankers' were at Carmarthen GC, playing for the President's Bowl, which was won by

Alwyn Rees of Southerdown GC. On the Saturday a match was held at Trefloyno GC. The trophy at stake was The Shankers Tankard and this was won by John Cann of Fairwood GC, Swansea. Mr Cann is one of two founder members of the society still playing. The other is Martin Mallinson, a member of Royal Porthcawl GC.

The final match of the weekend away was played on the Sunday at Tenby GC, which fittingly is the oldest club in Wales. It was a hard fought game with many suffering from the after effects of the previous evening's celebrations. The match was won by Geoff Roe (secretary of the society and a member of the Coed y

Mwstwr GC) with a par on the 18th just beating (by one point) Gerry Crump (Creigiau GC) on the final hole.

The society's final event of the year was the 'Christmas Turkey Trot'. The Shankers returned to Tenby GC and played a Stableford match in sub zero temperatures on Friday, December 3. John Cann claimed another first prize (a huge turkey) John Reese (Lantrisant GC) and Huw Rodgers were second and third respectively. Darrell Hart (Coed y Mwstwr GC) won the prize for 'Best Endeavour' on the day. This event concluded a hectic and eventful 30th year for the Prince of Wales 'Shankers' Golf Society.

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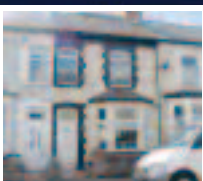
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Family Notices

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To us you were so special, what else is there to say, except to wish with all our hearts that you were here today.
With all our love, God bless. xxx
From Mum, Dad and all family in Portsmouth.

Tribute to BRIAN LITTLE
We have lost a very dear friend and neighbour in our close. Brian was the kindest and most generous man, one could ever wish to meet. His warmth and humour would always light up our day. He will be sadly missed. Fond memories.
- Joy and Steve.

Dr Gwyn Byron Morgan
Anne, Jane and Catherine, wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness during and after Gwyn's illness, and for their generous donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care.
Many thanks to Dr D McGovern and Cowbridge Health Centre, District and Marie Curie nurses, staff at Holme Tower Hospice, Bridgend and Felindre Hospitals for their kind care and attention.
Grateful thanks also to the Reverends Hywel Wyn Richards and Dr Vivian Jones, who officiated at the funeral, and Andrew Thomas, funeral director for carrying out the funeral arrangements.

Donovan Eira (née Thomas)
Passed away in the presence of her family on February 16 at Llandough Hospital, Eira, devoted mum to Jane and loving sister to Reg, the late Cynthia and Sheila. A cherished Grandma to Anna, a loved aunty to all her nieces and nephews. Eira will be dearly missed by all her family and friends. Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, until her service at St Cadocs, Old Village Church, Cadroxton, Barry on Tuesday March 1 at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Immediate family flowers only please. All enquiries to Lyndsay J Ellis at Park Funeral on 01446 421212.

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Birthdays

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BARRY RFC ROUND-UP

Fine away win for the Barry Seconds

BARRY Second XV returned to form with a hard-fought victory away at Llanrumney to cement their place at the top of the table.

With a threadbare squad to pick from once again, a make-shift pack faced the daunting task of facing the physicality of the home side, but they banished any such doubts with an industrious display, led by the veterans Julian McTavish and Lee Jones.

Rhys Hardy, returning from a long lay-off to start at outside half, controlled the game superbly and was justly rewarded with a try of his own.

The backline was firing on all cylinders once the forwards set the platform, with Ben Taylor,

in the unfamiliar role of centre, particularly outstanding. Ashley Adams and Richie Williams also crossed for the visitors.

The trio of youth players called up as last minute replacements all performed admirably, and this was summed up by Adam Wheeler crossing for the fourth try to

ensure the bonus point win.

Adam Lee was immaculate with his boot, converting all four tries and adding three penalties to his tally of 144 for the season.

Final score: Llanrumney 12, Barry 37.

Team: Lee, Adams,

Taylor, D Williams, R. Williams, J Williams, Hardy, Houdey, Wakefield, Wheeler, McTavish (captain), Myers, Jones, Poole, J Evans. Subs: A Evans, Bergeron, Dix. Man-of-the-match: Ben Taylor.

KC

Clubhouse topics

BARRY Rugby Club would like to thank those individuals and businesses who kindly provided sponsorship for last weekend's big race night at the club, which proved to be a great success, attended by some 80 people.

Special thanks to Wayne and his band of angels for setting up and running the evening together with Owain and Rhys, who organised the event on the players' behalf.

We must not forget the culinary skills of Ken Chow for his fine pork

rolls (we won't mention the chips).

Finally, a big thank you to Carol and her staff who kept the bar ticking over despite the long day that they had been through.

The annual patrons' dinner is being held at the clubhouse on Friday, March 4.

If you have not booked your table yet, please contact John Williams on 01446 733445, tickets are free to patrons and £20 for guests.

Don't forget the club will be open for this weekend's internationals.

ANDREW JAMIESON

The Barry under-15s lose out



Barry under-15s.

BARRY RFC under-15s played host to St Joseph's of Newport in a friendly tour match on Sunday, February 20.

St. Joseph's scored the first try of the match followed by a conversion, but Barry fought back hard and Mitchell Scott dived through to score Barry's first try, which was successfully converted by Sam Rees Davis.

The first half finished at 7-7 with both teams equally matched.

The second half

proved to be a different story with some good moves and individual runs from Barry, but also with some bad tackling that allowed St Joseph's to score five more tries.

Barry fought back hard in the last quarter of the match, but to no avail.

The final score was Barry 7, St Joseph's 45.

Barry under-15s would like to thank all the parents who turned out in the cold weather to support the team and their sponsors Williams PM Electrical Limited for their support for this season.

TA

Sully Sports hit Pro Copy for eight

SULLY entertained Pro Copy in this Division 2 clash hoping to avenge the earlier season defeat.

Sully were able to field their strongest side, even with a couple of suspensions.

The game started evenly with both sides looking to get the ball on the floor and play football. Sully took the lead when Liam Hobbs' cross saw Mark Brown challenge for a header. The ball fell kindly to Jaime Lamb, who made no mistake.

With Sully a goal up, they took control of the game and it wasn't long before Sully increased their lead.

Wesley Lamb picked up the ball in the centre of the park, and drilled a shot into the bottom corner from 20 yards.

Sully were in total control at this point and more goals followed when a long range effort could only be spilled by the Pro Copy keeper for Daniel Reid to pounce and make the scoreline 3-0.

With the Sully defence of Joe McCann, Michael King, Nigel Underdown and Dafydd

Brown dealing comfortably with the attacks of Pro Copy, it left the Sully midfield and strikers to go in search of more goals.

A free kick was awarded on the edge of the Pro Copy area, which Spencer Lamb stepped up and bent into the corner to increase their lead to 4-0.

Jaime Lamb added a fifth, followed shortly by the goal of the game by Wesley Lamb, who met a rebounded ball 25 yards out to smash it into the top corner.

The half was finished with a goal by Spencer Lamb, whose cross-cum-shot beat the keeper.

Early changes were made in the second half, with Dafydd Brown for Adam, and Joe McCann for young Kieran Jones, who was making his debut.

The eighth and final goal came when good link-up play between Liam Hobbs and Wesley Lamb saw a through ball to Jaime Lamb who was fouled in the area. The penalty saw Spencer complete his hat-trick.

A great afternoon for Sully, who recorded their largest win of the season.

JL

Squash teams aim to avoid relegation zones

THE Cowbridge B Bar 44 and Cowbridge C Shampan squash teams came back with only 5 points and 8 points respectively from their travels to Barry Leisure A and Cardiff University B last week.

The A team Bar 44 also suffered a 2-3 reverse entertaining Rhiwbina B (eventually amassing 8 team points).

All teams currently occupy respectable middle to upper league table positions but are all involved in very tight points totals divisions. A couple of bad results by any of the teams could see them in relegation country!

The A team match versus Rhiwbina B again required the efforts of a B team player with Richard Ford stepping up to fill in at No 5 – however, he came up against some accomplished left-handed racket skills to return a zip-three!

Simon Payne made a slow start at No 4 (3-9, 0-9) to put himself under severe match pressure but managed to compose himself to a more steady style to take the third game 9-4.

He continued in this vein to go 6-3 up in the fourth before making a few unforced errors to wind up 6-9 and hence lose his match 1-3.

Garfield Leask at No

3, while in the rallies in very competitive games, drew a blank game score (7-9, 7-9, 5-9) – and so the team match was lost (and only 1 team point on the board!).

Jon Bisson, returning to the league side at No 2 following injury, and Nick Guard No 1 and skipper, set about restoring some respectability to the match score and this they did with great success winning 3-1 and 3-0 to give a match result of 8-14 (including bonuses).

Earlier in the week the Bs Bar 44 travelled to Barry Leisure and took a bit of a pasting to lose 1-4 (5 points to 18). Only Colin Baxter at No 4 and Chris Ranger (No 2) returned with any game points – Colin Baxter winning an epic three-twoer (10-9 in the fifth) and Chris Ranger putting up a stern resistance until the fifth game and despite having to contend with some difficult match scoring decisions.

Julian Jenkins (No 3), Chris Harris (No 5) and Paul Reynish (No 1) all struggled to get near game points – particularly Paul Reynish, as Barry lined up a former Premiership player in Liam Corrigan for his night's opposition!

C team Shampan travelled to Cardiff to take on the lowly placed University B team at their Senghennydd Road courts with high hopes of a win.

This would bolster their second placed league position but while

a firm foundation was set by Nos 5 and 4 – the fast-improving Ed Lowe and the evergreen Tony Steele – with 3-0 results, the higher order of the team could not come in with 'the goods'.

Dave Matthews (No 3) went down 1-3; Hugh Wallace (No 2) drew a blank 0-3 despite 8-10 tie-breaks in the first and second games and Colin Giles 1-3 having blitzed the first game 9-1. Match result – a close 8-13.

The week also saw the club compete in the South Wales Cup taking on a side from Llantrisant whose A team compete in South Wales Division One A (a league higher than Cowbridge A!)

A highly respectable 2-3 result was achieved with wins at 2 and 4 for

Jon Bisson and Simon Payne while Nos 3 and 5 Garfield Leask were edged out in five-setters both with fightbacks and chances. Nick Guard was convincingly taken out at No 1 for Llantrisant to make their way to the next round.

This week sees no competitive matches take place for the club (coincides with school half-term) and gives a chance for players to take a break or use the court time for practice amongst themselves.

All club details (including juniors section for ages 7-16) from Chairman Clive Prigg (01446 773729) or club c a p t a i n r u s s . w a t t s @ b t o p e n - w o r l d . c o m

RUSS WATTS

Under-8s good performance

A RARE dry Sunday morning saw Barry RFC under-8s visit Cowbridge for what turned out to be an enjoyable, ferociously competitive session of tag rugby.

Cowbridge fielded a strong squad again with the 23 players splitting into two teams, each playing 20 minute games.

Game 1: Cowbridge under-8s 4, Barry under-8s 3

AN aggressive defensive performance by Barry was more than matched by Cowbridge whose excellent passing sequences, committed support play and ferocious tagging allowed Ioan Davies to open the scoring for Cowbridge.

Some good efforts by all the team in defence and in contesting any loose possession allowed Jake Williams to cross the line twice before half time following some excellent passing sequences by the Cowbridge team.

Barry scored a single try in the first half resulting in a half time score of 3-1. Some strong physical and direct running by both teams in the second half saw Barry score first and come within one point of Cowbridge. An excellent passage of play by Cowbridge allowed Oliver Jarman to score keeping the game out of Barry's reach.

Barry scored a further try towards the end of match bringing a keenly fought contest to a close at 4-3 in Cowbridge's favour.

Team: Ioan Davies, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarman, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Iestyn

Owen, Harry Whittaker, Dewi Williams, Jake Williams.

Game 2: Cowbridge under-8s 6, Barry under-8s 9

THE Barry team quickly put the Cowbridge team under pressure.

After a barrage of attacking runs and tagging Barry went ahead by three without response by Cowbridge.

A good sequence of passes allowed Iwan-Thomas Bartle to cross for Cowbridge's first try, but his was to be Cowbridge's last and only try of the first half, although with some committed defence and keenly competitive loose play they stemmed the flow of tries from Barry who had to work hard for the remaining two tries.

This left Cowbridge adrift 1-5 at half time.

Cowbridge scored quickly in the second half when Elis Greenwood crossed the line first closely followed by a James Gilvray try.

Although still scoring themselves, Barry were finding it harder to breach the Cowbridge defence in the second half.

Two tries by Elis Howell brought Cowbridge to within two points of Barry.

Despite completing his hat-trick and Elis Howell crossing the line for his third try after an excellent team build up, the four-try advantage Barry took into the second half proved too big a hurdle to climb, and resulted in Barry winning by three tries.

Team: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Sam Coates, Catrin Evans, Ben Farrell, James Gilvray, Matthew Gilvray, Owen Godsal, Elis Greenwood, Harry Holtam, Ellis Howell, Morgan Isaacs, McKinley Parsons.

KH

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Sully Sports maintain top spot in one-sided affair

WHITCHURCH
SULLY SPORTS

0
33

SULLY Sports travelled to Whitchurch, chasing a bonus point win to maintain top spot in the league – and came away with just that.

The match started with the Sully forwards stamping their authority in the game, in particular the set piece, where the Whitchurch scrum constantly buckled under the force of the Sully pack.

This continued despite the temporary loss of club stalwart Paul Miller, who went to the sin bin for some over-zealous rucking.

Despite this, the Sully forwards displayed too much power and the first points came from No 8 Scott Mills, touching down after a short pick up and drive from a scrum close to the home side's line.

It was one-way traffic from there on, as time and time again the visitors combined and went through several phases using the full width of the pitch, only to make an unforced error at the crucial moment with the opposition line at their mercy.

However, Sully then started to settle as the half went on and as the error count started to drop. Another try came from winger Dave Stillman, who, having beaten his defender, went over in the corner.

The home side held out until half-time but the writing was on the wall as Sully began the second half at a higher tempo.

Stepping up a gear against a tiring opposition, Whitchurch could only live off scraps and kicked what possession they had away back to the now rampant visitors.

The scores in the second half came in three successive converted tries, all the result of excellent passages of play between the forwards and backs,



Action from the game.

with Sully using their direct strike runners in full-back Lee Walters, who touched down twice, and centre Wayne Jones, scoring after breaking the ever-creaking Whitchurch defensive line to go under the posts.

The bonus point win keeps Sully Sports on top spot with two games to go, but with their close rivals CIACs and Star matching their result, the race for the title is likely to come down to the final fixtures.

Sully Sports now have a week off from the league as the Six Nations resume, but hold their annual Nigel Westall memorial match at South Road where they entertain neighbours Sully RFC in a warm-up to the Italy v Wales match; kick-off is 11.30am for a very good cause.

The following week, it's the penultimate league match where Sully Sports host a mouth-watering tie against Sea View, which is sure to be a cracker!

Team: L Walters, D Stillman, W Jones, P Mees (c), D Weston, M Phillips, M Mees, J Velda, J Newland, A Penberthy, M Angove, L Miller, J Di Tomaso, J Thomas, S Mills.

Reps: I Yasin, D Stillman, R Franks, A Szczyk, D Russell, I Paterson, M Stingl.

JDT

Jenner Park hosts annual track race

THIS Sunday (February 27) sees the 25th running of the Barry 40 miles track race at Jenner Park Stadium.

This event was first held in 1986 on the original cinder track, and was won on the first two occasions by local athlete, Mick McGeech, who has been the race director since its inception.

During its remarkable history, the event has seen a total of 57 world best performances set, and three winners of the Barry race have gone on to win global ultradistance titles.

The standard of competition is expected to be every bit as competitive as previously, as 25 of the toughest endurance athletes in the UK will be in Barry to contest the classic race. As ever, it will not only incorporate the Welsh Championships, but also will act as a trial for UK teams selected for international competition in 2011.

The athletes' ages range from 31 to 77, and four of the competitors are ladies.

The weather alone often has a bearing on the outcome. The winner from 2009 and 2010, George Dayantis, from Christchurch Runners in Hampshire, returns bidding for a hat trick, while the 2008 winner, Colin Gell from Sale Harriers, Manchester, is also in the line-up.

Others who have the potential to have a say in the overall outcome of the race include: Mike Feighan (Exeter Harriers), Paul Fernandez (Abingdon Amblers), Mike Robbins (Wrexham

AAC), Alan Ryder (Erne Valley Harriers), Mark Shepherd (Team Kennet) and Nigel Thompson (Lytham St Annes RRC).

In the ladies event, Adela Salt (Trentham RC) is an outstanding favourite, but Adela could face a tough challenge from the ever-improving Karen Rushton (South West Vets) who made her marathon debut at London last year with.

These two ladies raced head to head over 50 kilometres at Gloucester five weeks ago, with Adela the winner by just four minutes.

Local athletes Jen Salter and Loretta Daley are certainly capable of providing an upset should Adela or Karen falter.

Local interest will again centre on Gary Hyatt, who has an impressive record of 9 finishes from 12 starts in the race.

Last year he set new Welsh over-60 records at 30 miles, 50 kms and 40 miles, and will no doubt be trying to improve on these.

On April 17, Gary will contest his 30th consecutive London Marathon.

As ever, Gary's wife Pip, and daughters Kate and Sally, will be instrumental in providing the catering to keep the army of volunteers well nourished throughout the day.

However, the most inspiring sight of the race will be 77 year old Geoff Oliver competing over 40 miles yet again.

This man is the epitome of the indomitability of the human spirit – simply remarkable!

The race starts at 10am, and admission is free.

MM

Farmers' golf society looks back on the year

RIGHT:
Alun
Griffiths,
Bryan
Owen and
Julian
Kelly.



MEMBERS of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society held their annual presentation evening recently at The Heronston Hotel, Bridgend.

Captain Gino Cocco and his wife Audrey presented the prizes to those members who had been successful throughout the golfing year, and former president Gwyn Evans came forward to present the President's Putter award to the society's golfer of the year, Bryan Owen.

Members are now looking forward to the new season, which starts at Southerndown Golf Club when members will be competing for The Southerndown Cup, kindly sponsored by Mr Glyn Watts-Jones.

TMCc



Clive Thomas and Tim Jarvis.



ABOVE: President Geraint Davies dancing with his daughter Amy.



RIGHT: Captain Gino Cocco with his wife Audrey.



ABOVE: Pam Harris with Liz Walker.

Six-a-side leagues round-up

SOME nice symmetry in the first week of the Bridgend six-a-side league, with reigning champs B Attack getting off to a solid start and beating Hangover Heroes 2-0, while the same score saw Day Sleepers beat The Pie Boys.

There were two 1-0 wins in division one, but it was a Tom Howell-inspired Minter Phoenix outfit who really took the eye and beat Ogmore Valley Striders 3-0.

Tudor Motors beat Llanfair Saints 7-5 to hang on to top spot in the Cardiff six-a-side league, but Penarth Panthers were the days most impressive victors and humbled The Nutty Boys 10-0 as Scott Walker found his best form.

Anyone who wants to join the six-a-side football leagues in South Wales can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net



The Pie Boys.

Imps work hard for their victory

Cadoxton Imps
Llantwit Major A

1
0

LLANTWIT visited for a top of the league clash with the Imps.

Llantwit took control of the match early on, playing well controlled football in the middle of the park and creating chances.

The Imps defence of Jacob Burgess, Tom Dyball and another man of the match performance from Gage Waller battled hard to contain the Llantwit attacks as they found themselves camped in their own half for the first 20 minutes.

The midfield were also forced to defend deep and showed true determination in keeping Llantwit at bay, with Ashley Cottle and Sam Becks putting in tireless shifts.

The game then started to gradually open up as the Imps got a foothold, thus giving Ben Pearce, Kieran Ashton and Louis Burrows the chance to start pushing forward and link up with the forward line of Dan Morgan and Jordan Williams, who up to this point had seen very little of the ball.

Then just as things were starting to settle the Imps suffered three major blows; firstly Sam Becks came out of a crunching tackle with a dead leg and only just made it to half time and Louis Burrows (knee)

and Tom Dyball (back) had to be withdrawn with injuries, meaning two forced substitutions before half time.

The second half was a much better affair with both teams going for the win, and the introduction of Jo Robinson, Callum Harding, Kieran Thomas and the injured Izaak Farrag gave Imps extra options

The last quarter of the game was end to end with both teams having good chances, and Sam Rees Davies yet again proved what a top quality goalkeeper he is throughout the game with a number of great saves.

The Imps took the lead with 10 minutes remaining, where following an inswinging corner from Ben, there was a goalmouth scramble where the referee spotted an infringement from the Llantwit player and without hesitation pointed straight to the spot.

Ben stepped up to take the penalty and without showing any pressure coolly slotted it away to give the Imps the advantage.

During a frantic finale the Imps defended with great passion and commitment, managing to hold on and claim all three points and maintain their unbeaten status for the season.

JH

League leaders come unstuck in spectacular fashion at home

SAINTS were soundly beaten by a new-look Lions side in a shocking result for the home side.

League leaders Saints came into the game with a proud derby record, having never lost one, but Llantwit inflicted Saints' biggest defeat of the season, their biggest ever at home and their first home defeat in nearly a year.

Saints started the brighter of the two teams and dominated the opening 20 minutes with Mortimore, Lewis and Austin having efforts wide. But then a four-

SUNDAY SAINTS FC 1 LLANTWIT MAJOR LIONS 9

minute period that shaped the game happened.

A poor clearance came to Owen Newton and his stunning long range drive flew into the top corner to open the scoring for Llantwit.

Next, a misjudged header put the forward in but Richards raced from his goal to steer the striker wide and Lawson made the tackle. Unfortunately, the ball ricocheted off his boot and into the net to double the lead.

Then Jack Lansdown

broke the offside trap to race clear and calmly slot away and it was three, and Saints were gobsmacked!

Saints were now chasing the game and never really found any fluidity and snapped at shots and misplaced passes as Llantwit grew in confidence.

Saints had a goal chalked off for a questionable offside when Mortimore had the ball in the net, but it was four before half time when Llantwit's Gethin Jennings fired in after a neat move.

Saints went in shell shocked and looked to rally, but that didn't happen.

Llantwit kept playing the better football and made it five and six with goals from Ryan Evans.

Saints pulled one back when Austin flicked the ball over for Mortimore to get onto and the league's leading goalscorer calmly chipped former Saints keeper Matt Jackson.

Saints pushed on for more consolation but this left gaps at the back and Llantwit exploited them.

Lansdown and Rob Kemp made it seven and eight and Evans completed his hat-trick to round off the scoring. Saints keeper Richards also made a stunning triple save as he did his best to keep the score down.

Saints were decimated but remain league leaders and desperately need to put this behind them and push on and claim the league title. It was a huge off day for Saints, as they were completely outplayed by a resurgent Lion side who thoroughly deserved their win.

Many thanks to Lafarge Cement (Aberthaw Works), The Kinsale Stone Company (Wales) Ltd for sponsorship of the team and to Roy and Cyndy at the Four Bells, St Athan for their continued support for the team.

Saints FC: G Richards (A Casey on 75mins), R Lewis, A Lawson, R West (R Collings on 78mins), G Morgans (T Roberts on 25 mins), T Charles, J Austin, D Cleave, P Morgan, L Lewis, J Mortimore (captain).
Subs: T Roberts, R Collings, TJ Bowring, A Casey.

HD

We welcome your sports reports - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Dinas Powys unlucky in close away defeat

Welsh League Division Two	
Cwmaman Institute	2
Dinas Powys	1

DINAS POWYS

deserved to get something out of this game and if it wasn't for home keeper Kurt Rodgers making at least three excellent saves they may have even collected all three points.

Second place Cwmaman were grateful to their keeper as early as the second minute when he made a double save to prevent Dinas taking an early lead.

A good pass out of the Dinas defence found Ricki Morgan and his low cross was met by Mark Dunford, but somehow Rodgers got something on the ball to push the ball away only to see another shot coming straight back at him and again he was equal to it.

The home side soon got their neat passing game going and when Carl Jenkins found space on the left he made his way into the area before finishing with a low shot into the far corner of the net.

Fifteen minutes into the half Dinas were grateful to their keeper Reece Ottley when he pulled off an excellent save to deny Seb Haggitt.

For Dinas, Gareth Tedstone's diving header ran wide of the post before Cwmaman's Connor Wickham also saw his effort run wide when well placed. Half-hour into the game Dinas almost levelled; the ball was won in midfield and played forward for Ollie Dalton, whose first-time twenty-five yard effort hit the bar with the keeper beaten.

Dinas suffered a double blow five minutes before half-time when Gareth Tedstone limped off with Carl Huntley replacing him, and the home side adding to their lead through Ian Traynor, who chased a long ball out of defence reaching the ball just before the keeper, and rolling the ball into the net from twelve yards.

Dinas almost hit back just on half-time when Jason Davies launched a free-kick into the area for Jon Carpenter to beat the defence with a far post header, only to see Rodgers making yet another excellent save to deny him.

Fifteen minutes into the second-half Ollie Dalton was brought down twenty-five yards from goal and once again the home keeper did well to get fingertips to Jason Davies' free-kick conceding a corner.

Dinas continued to have the better of the second-half with manager Mark Cahill bringing on two further substitutes, Liam Jones and Will Penikett, to help their cause.

Dinas were restricting the home side, who were not as effective as they had been in the first-half, and when Ollie Dalton latched onto a through ball, his twenty-five yard effort sailed over the bar.

They were not to be denied though, and ten minutes from time they got the goal they deserved with the two substitutes involved.

Following good work in midfield, Liam Jones found Ricki Morgan on the right of the penalty area and his cross was met by Carl Huntley to head the ball wide of the keeper and inside the far post.

Dinas kept pushing forward for the remainder of the half and looked the more likely side to score, but the nearest they came was a Will Penikett header comfortably taken by the home keeper.

This week Dinas play bottom club Llangenor and if they put in as much effort and commitment they should get something from that game.

Squad: Reece Ottley, Rhodri Foote, Ben Dimond, Michael Hayward, Dave Penikett, Jon Carpenter, Ricki Morgan, Jason Davies, Gareth Tedstone, Mark Dunford, Ollie Dalton.
Subs: Stephen Provis, Will Penikett, Liam Jones, Carl Huntley, Dave Burnett.

Next game, Welsh League Division Two, Saturday, February 26, Llangenor v Dinas Powys, kick off 2pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's web site www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk.

MW

Cowbridge Town get their revenge with narrow win

COWBRIDGE Town FC laid to rest the ghosts of an early season derby defeat by taking revenge on rivals Llantwit Major FC with a well deserved 1-0 win away at Wildmill Lane on Saturday.

Winning the toss Town captain Craig Burrows chose to work against the disadvantage of the slope in the first half.

It was obvious from the early exchanges that the Llantwit tactics were designed to suit the extreme camber, as the ball spent a lot of time in the air, perhaps in an attempt to bypass the superior Town midfield.

Cowbridge refused to let their opponents affect their own standards, however, as they looked to get the ball down and play through an older Llantwit team who struggled to keep pace with a more fluid and dynamic passing game.

Town's classier approach almost bore fruit early on as Jack Gavin and David Davies both worked the channels well to fashion out half chances for Craig

Burrows and Lloyd Lewis respectively.

Refusing to allow their opponents to drag them into a game of kick and rush, Cowbridge persisted against the elements and finally got their rewards when striker Jack Gavin cleverly drifted left once again to deliver a fine cross to the feet of Dave Davies, who fired home from close range.

Despite Town's increasing ascendancy, Llantwit were offered a lifeline back into the match after another 60-yard punt saw a Major striker find space behind the Cowbridge back four.

An excellent tackle by young right back Joe Paley saw the ball diverted away from the striker's feet at the last moment, but the referee awarded a spot kick to the protests of the Town 11.

Justice was done however as the taker produced a poor penalty which was palmed away by stronghold guardian Wyndham Howells in the Town goal to the roar of the away support.

Frustration inevitably followed from Llantwit, and their midfield tried to even out their techni-

cal deficiencies with brute force, culminating in a knee-high challenge, which was dealt with swiftly and strongly by the referee, who produced the red card with little hesitation.

The depleted hosts should have made amends soon after however, as the referee not only failed to spot the obvious push which sent centre back Matthew Little crashing onto the ball inside his own box, but decided to blow for handball and award another controversial spot kick.

The alternative penalty taker proceeded to pump the ball high, wide and not very handsomely over the crossbar.

As the Mitre Max disappeared from view, so did any chances of a comeback for the home team, and Town survived the enduring long ball barrage and claimed a well deserved win over their bitter rivals.

The result makes it four wins in consecutive matches for Town and their sights are now firmly set on another promotion season.

MR

Llantwit just pipped in derby encounter

QUITE how Llantwit lost this game remains a mystery, as once again the Major couldn't put away their chances and were duly punished by stubborn opponents.

Llantwit started keenly and took the game to the opposition. Despite Llantwit's sustained pressure, the home team just couldn't find the net, as White, Jennings, and Mawhinney all had good chances to open the scoring.

Cowbridge had a good shout for a penalty turned down in their first meaningful attack after 15 minutes, but the referee

waved play on.

Llantwit were camped in the Town half and continued to create chance after chance without any reward, due to a mixture of woeful finishing and fortuitous goalkeeping.

On the brink of half-time, the home team found themselves behind against the run of play.

Yet another route one ball to the left winger, who appeared to be at least two yards offside, saw him square the ball to the Town No 9, whose finish crept into the goal via the unfortunate Sherer in the Major goal.

The second half continued in the same manner as the first, with Llantwit on the attack while trying not to get caught out by the Cowbridge aerial bombardment.

Again, the Major just couldn't take their numerous opportunities, thanks largely to the excellent Cowbridge 'keeper.

The home team were awarded a penalty on the hour mark after Tom Mawhinney was felled by the Town right back, Owen Morris, captaining the side in the absence of Llantwit's talisman Dan Major, stepped up, but his weak effort was easily saved.

Morris took his frustration out on the Cowbridge No 8's thigh just a minute later, and the lusty challenge earned the stand-in skip-

per a straight red card and an early shower.

You would have thought it was the visitors who were down to 10 men as the home side dominated even more despite their burden.

How Llantwit did not score from two Dom White corners which rolled across the goal line was mindboggling.

Llantwit's lifeline looked to have come in stoppage time when they were awarded another penalty. As White burst into the penalty area, the Town player dived well at his feet to save the ball and clutch it in his grasp; unfortunately for Town, it was their centreback and not their goalkeeper.

Grafton took over from the departed Morris on penalty duties, and his blasted effort was still rising as it sailed over the crossbar. This was the last action of a hugely frustrating game for Llantwit.

A mention must go to the visiting 'keeper who was a one-man brick wall to frustrate the home team; Llantwit's man of the match was awarded to Joel Preece.

Llantwit team: A Sherer, J Preece, O Morris (captain), P Grafton, J Thomas, G Jennings, L Sime, J Hartley, T Mawhinney, D White, S Phillips.
Subs: L Jennings, R Grapes, T Howles, L Vincent.

DC

Cadoxton Barry seconds' 'mist' opportunity

CADOXTON BARRY 2NDS	0
SULLY 2NDS	1

WITH Cadoxton Barry's home pitch at Bryn-y-Don waterlogged, this Vale League First Division match was transferred to Sully, where a thick sea mist lent a ghostly atmosphere to the first half hour of the proceedings - half an hour during which a fairly even start slowly saw Sully taking the upper hand in the territorial stakes.

As the mist began to clear a clever scissor kick at goal from a Sully corner went only just wide before a defensive slip up in the Sully rear-guard saw Govier miss by a whisker.

A quality cross from the left saw Bowsher go close for Sully.

Playing down the hill in the second half, Cadoxton Barry were beginning to get the better of the exchanges as substitute Bickley tried to get things moving down the right flank - one of his crosses resulting in a glancing header from Govier that went only just wide.

Sully's Sims then went into the book for a clumsy foul and Steel's long range free kick grazed a post as it went out for a corner.

Then Sully brought the best out of Marcus in the CB goal, as a fierce blast from Dodds was well held; then, at the other end a Craig Jonhson corner glanced off the Sully bar.

Sully began to take the upper hand once more as the Barry-based side's passing game became more and more

inaccurate, and were it not for Clarke and Walsh, both of whom put in sterling performances at the back, Sully might well have run out winners by more than the solitary goal.

Even so, it must have been disappointing for CB to concede the winner in the dying minutes as Boyles poked the ball home off the post from close in following a goalmouth scramble that had followed a Sully corner.

This was far from Cadoxton Barry 2nds' best display of the season and they will now have to work hard to stay in touch with new title favorites, Waterfront Wanderers - the Wanderers having beaten Millwood 3-1 while the third title contender, Llantwit Major 2nds, suffered a surprise home defeat to Cowbridge Town.

While Cadoxton Barry's 1st team match at Llanbadrach against Caerphilly was called off due to a waterlogged pitch, on a neighbouring pitch to the above match, Sully's South Wales Senior League side was busy doing Cadoxton Barry a big favour by scoring six goals against Penydarren.

Penydarren are one of the two sides below CB in the First Division, but prior to Sully's victory their goal difference was superior to that of Cadoxton Barry.

That has changed with the goal differences of the two sides now on a par, and CB can improve further in this situation it could prove vital in their battle to avoid relegation.

NW

Scorpions' sponsorship deal

SOUTH Wales Scorpions rugby league club have announced their first ever front of shirt sponsorship deal, and it's all thanks to Millennium Magic.

TWS Equipment Services from Caerphilly will sponsor the Scorpions for a £8,000 a year in a three year deal and their proprietor Trevor Smithies says that it was only thanks to Millennium Magic and

more specifically the match programme, that he knew about the Scorpions in the first place.

TWS is a family run business that has been established for seven years, and Smithies, who attended the Scorpions' 70-6 pre-season friendly win over Valley Cougars, has also been invited to be on the board of directors.

More information can be found at www.scorpionsrl.com.

IG

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Barry tourist meets Grand Slam All Black

WHILE on a two week tour of New Zealand, Barry resident John Viney met former All Black front row forward John Ashworth, who was part of the Grand Slam winning team in 1978.

Ashworth was involved in the notorious incident of stamping on JPR Williams during a match with Bridgend, causing the Welsh player to require 30 stitches!

John, a local window cleaner who lives in Cadoxton, said: "I was in the wine region of Hawkes Bay and calling in on some open cellar doors, tasting the region's choice wines when I chanced upon The Junction Vineyard, owned by John and his family. His wife Jo greeted me and it was while tasting that I noticed several All Black pictures on the wall. When she heard I was from Wales, Jo said: 'My husband was an All Black and played against Wales'."

"During the conversation, Jo mentioned the JPR incident, and at this point in walked the man himself, still a fine figure of a man, tall and lean, and looking as if he could still handle the action."

"John Ashworth told me: 'I still coach a local team, but that's as far as it goes.'"

"I spoke to him about the forthcoming World Cup to be held in New Zealand. John said: 'I will be watching it on the television drinking a glass of wine, I haven't even taken up my quota of tickets.'"

John Ashworth's son, Leith, is an award winning wine maker who turns grapes from the windswept stony gravels of Central Hawkes Bay into intense, aromatic wines.



John Viney with John Ashworth.

The range of wines reflects the former All Black's passion, with names like 'Side Step Gewurztraminer', 'Corner Post Sauvignon Blanc', and 'Front Row Pinot Noir'. John Viney added: "With a name like 'Viney' it's not surprising I enjoy the product of the vine!"

"As John Ashworth walked me back to my car, like a perfect gentleman, he posed for a picture and reflected on his time in Wales."

"His own twisted teeth, shown when smiling, betray the fact that he did not always get his own way against the opposition in the scrum!"

"He also told me that one of the best nights in his career was when John Toshack took a few of them out for the evening after a match."

"It may have been more than thirty years ago, but both the JPR Williams incident and the Toshack evenings were part of Welsh memories for this All Black turned winemaker."

"Meeting him and his family will be a lasting memory of my trip to New Zealand and the bottle of Chardonnay I bought at the winery went down a treat."

LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALL

by GWYN JOHN

AFTER a couple of defeats in recent weeks, the under-16 side restored some pride with a 7-0 home victory over Sully Sports B on Saturday.

Dafydd James Isaac led the way and notched a hat trick; Jordan Owen (2), Lloyd Meyrick and Ben Tregidion added the other goals.

The under-15 A were involved in a top-of-the-table clash against Cadoxton Imps at Barry Sports Centre and lost 1-0 through a disputed penalty.

It was a case of two decisions which went against the Major: the first came in the first half when the referee turned down Llantwit's penalty claim and then late in the match, when he pointed to the spot to give

Cadoxton the winner.

Nevertheless, it was a good match, with both sides playing well and a single goal was always going to decide the final outcome.

Josh Bradfield scored for the under-14 A side against Cowbridge; however, the visitors were too good for the Llantwit lads and took the points with a 6-1 victory.

The under-13 team are one step closer to winning the league title with a 4-0 home win over Cadoxton Imps.

Will Perkins scored a well-taken hat trick, and Richard Stephens added the fourth in another good team display.

Both under-12 teams and the under-14 A side had free dates; and the under-15 team were left without a match after Sully Sports A called off on Friday evening.

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

AMBER LANDS AGA LADIES OPEN RACE

Back In Business, an eleven-year-old bay gelding who used to be trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams, gave St Hilary farmer Ralph Thomas and Colin Shaw - who has a half share in the horse - plenty to smile about when landing the first division of the AGA Ladies Open Race at the North Hereford Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Whitwick Manor, Newtown, last Saturday.

Brilliantly ridden by twenty-year-old Amber Griffiths from Llangeinor, *Back In Business*, always in a handy position throughout the race, ran on strongly in the closing stages to beat the even money favourite *Kilcassan* by six lengths with the pacemaking *High Five* a further five lengths away in third place.

Back In Business, a 14-1 chance, is trained at Merthyr Mawr by Jonathan Tudor, who told me that he has had the horse since last November and that he is "a lovely horse to train."

A winner of three races under rules, including the Highland National at Perth, *Back In Business* was off the track for nearly two years and now that he is back in form, he should pick up a couple more ladies' open races this season.

In the second division of the ladies' open race, Paul Miles' *Lady Myfanwy*, who is qualified with the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt, could only finish fourth behind *Kalmo Bay*, a 25-1 outsider ridden by Lorna Brooks.

Amicelli finished second, and *Desert Tommy*, who won at Chepstow a couple of years ago for Evan Williams, took third spot.

Lady Myfanwy was ridden by Sally Randall, who 24 hours earlier, had won the Grand Military Gold Cup for amateur riders at Sandown Park on 14-1 chance

Surenaga, a horse she trains herself.

Sally became the first female rider to win this race a couple of years ago, and remains the only woman to have won this long established race.

King Of Rohan, owned by three local enthusiasts who have a successful horse in training with Evan Williams called *The Snail*, saw their very promising seven-year-old win division two of the open maiden under John Mathias.

In the Club Members Maiden Mares race, *Dance Hall Diva* from the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt finished third behind *River Beauty* and *Riverside Bay* and this nine-year-old bay mare, who was ridden by Jodie Hughes, and who is trained by Luke Price, should be capable of picking up a race before the season ends.

Two others to keep an eye out for are *Findlay's Find* and *Shake The Bottle*.

Our Island hat-trick

OUR ISLAND, a six-year-old bay gelding trained by Aberthyn's Tim Vaughan, won for when landing the Totesport Novices Handicap Hurdle at Newbury last Friday.

Confidently ridden by Richard Johnson, the 5-1 chance could now run at the Cheltenham Festival meeting according to his astute trainer.

Debbie Hamer, who hails from the Bridgend area, but who now trains in Carmarthen, had a welcome winner when her German-bred *Brilliant* won the selling handicap hurdle at Fakenham under Aodhgan Conlon.

Rhys is nominated for 21st Lesters

RHYS FLINT from Kenfig Hill has been nominated for the conditional jockey of the year award.

The former point-to-point rider who was tipped by the legendary AP McCoy as a rider who was heading for the top, is a worthy nominee for the 21st Lesters - Gold Cup for amateur horse racing's own 'Oscars'.

The glittering awards

ceremony celebrating the achievements of jockeys from Britain and overseas during 2010 will take place at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole on Thursday, April 21 in front of a host of sporting stars and celebrities.

Champion jump jockey and BBC Sports Personality of the Year AP McCoy could add three more 'Lesters' to his current haul of 16 after being nominated for 'Jump Ride of the Year' on *Don't Push It* in the John Smith's Grand National, as well as 'Jump Jockey of the Year' and 'Jump Jockey Special Recognition'.

2010 flat racing champion jockey Paul Hanagan could pick up his third Lester, after nominations for 'Flat Jockey of the Year', 'Flat Jockey Special Recognition' and 'Flat Ride of the Year' on *Opening Nite* in the John Smith's Handicap at Ayr.

The 21st Lesters is to be hosted by Luke Harvey and Jason Weaver and tickets are on sale from the PJA's website on 01635 44102.

The evening begins at 7pm with a champagne reception followed by a three-course dinner at 7.30pm.

Evan lands first double

EVAN DAVID (18), who is attached to Tim Vaughan's Aberthyn yard, had a day to remember when he chalked up his first ever double at the Vale of Cletwyr Hunt Steeplechases at Lydstep.

Evan, from Llanharan, won the men's open race on eight-year-old *Dead Or Alive* and in the confined race on *Liberty Rock*.

Dead Or Alive, trained by Tim's wife Abbi, won by five lengths from

Balearic Star, who was putting in his best work during the closing stages of the race.

However, *Dead Or Alive's* task was made easier when the front running *Grand Bleu*, partnered by Welsh champion John Mathias, came down five fences from the finish.

The second leg of Evan's double came in the confined race when 12-year-old *Liberty Rock* made every post a winning one to score from six-year-old *Moonlight Music*.

Liberty Rock, a four-times winner in France, is owned by Mark Gichero and trained by his partner Sam Butler at Kenfig near Bridgend.

The ladies open race was won by *Naughty By Nature* who, under Jodie Hughes, led her five rivals a merry dance to win by five lengths from *Kisha King*.

Backstreet Lad, a reject of Evan Williams's Llancarfan yard, gave Ioan Thomas (29) his first winner in his first-ever ride at a point-to-point, when coming home a distance ahead of sole rival *Treasury Counsel*.

Welsh champion rider John Mathias won the restricted on *Pathian Price* and Dave Mansell was seen at his best when winning on *Lady Darcy* (club members' mares maiden) and Lord Brownlow (second division open maiden). Both horses came from last to first to win their respective races.

Rae Jones's *Up There*, who is qualified with the Pentrych Hunt, notched up his second win of the season when landing the mixed open race at the Vine and Craven Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

Up There is trained by Nicki Sheppard and was ridden by James Ridley.



John Ashworth at the winery entrance.

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Sam needs help to move up the skiing rankings

A YOUNG Vale skier is looking for financial help to move up the rankings and move on to international senior competitions.

Sam Stephens has been prominent on the dry slope racing circuit, and is now making a name for himself on snow on the challenging Alpine circuit.

Both surfaces require an extremely high level of technical ability, together with strength and fitness.

He first came to prominence skiing for C o w b r i d g e Comprehensive School.

Sam's father, Paul, told The GEM: "It is with the latter that Sam is showing significant improvement, having been invited to join Reed's School on their elite athlete programme with a scholarship awarded for his skiing."

"While working for his A-levels, he has been put on a punishing strength and conditioning programme, which is really starting to show results in a sport where there is no room for error, and the smallest mistake can mean disaster."

"On the dry slopes, Sam followed up his

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

first grand prix podium finish at Pendle with overall victory in the Welsh National Championships at Pontypool last September, an event which was entered by the top dry-slope skiers from around the UK."

Sam's training for the winter Alpine racing programme had started in July, when at the recommendation of his Welsh squad coach, Robin Kellen, he was given an invitation to train with the Snowsport England squad on the glacier in Les Deux Alpes, where he impressed the coaching team.

He followed this with a week of glacier training in Tignes (France) in October with the Welsh squad, and has been in Europe training and racing over the new year and more recently in Switzerland.

This latter trip took in both the Welsh Alpine Championships (at Champéry) and the British Schoolboys Championships (at Meiringen).

Paul Stephens said: "His primary focus at the Welsh was to improve his world rank-

ing in the slalom and giant slalom events."

"He succeeded in both events, coming 22nd overall in both races in truly international fields, and he is now the reigning Welsh FIS champion in both events."

However, the cost of competitive skiing is daunting. Mr Stephens said: "With very little central funding available for skiing, Sam has already received some welcome support from a local charity."

"In order to continue developing his career he is desperately in need of financial support and has applied for a bespoke fund to be set up in his name with the Skiers Trust of Great Britain Limited (www.skierstrust.co.uk), a registered charity."

"This enables tax-efficient donations to be made by both individuals and companies, and the relevant Gift Aid forms are available on their website."

"Sam is also actively seeking sponsorship opportunities and any interested parties can contact him at sampstephens@gmail.com."



ABOVE: Sam Stephens with some of his skiing trophies.

COMPANY'S LIMO AUCTION BOOSTS IMPS FOOTBALL



Travelling in style with AG Adams!

CHILDREN'S football in Barry has been given a boost by local funeral directors, who auctioned off one of their Jaguar limousines, including a

meal at a top bistro in the Vale, to help raise funds.

The auction by AG Adams & Son raised £165 for Cadroxton Imps AFC, who were founded in 1972 and provide 14 football teams, with ages ranging between 6 and 15 years old, with everything needed, from kits to training facilities and training courses, all of which costs thousands of pounds every season.

The successful bidders were Norma and Russ Morris, from Barry. A G Adams & Son arranged for a chauffeur-driven limousine to collect them from their home, they were taken for a ride around Barry Island

before being taken to Llantwit Major, to dine at Iltyd 216 in the old part of the town.

After paying towards their meal, the couple were taken home, with nothing but praise for the whole evening.

Arthur Thompson, manager of A G Adams & Son, said: "For years, our staff at the funeral home have helped raise funds for local worthy causes, and will continue to do so as part of our ongoing commitment to the people of Barry and its surrounding areas."

"Should any charities or organisations feel that as a company we can help with their fundraising then please contact me at the funeral home."

Ffos Las win for Tim

WINTERWOOD, an eight-year-old bay gelding trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthaw and ridden by the legendary A P McCoy, landed the Bracey The Friendly Builders Merchant Novices Handicap Chase at Ffos Las last week.

The top-weighted Winterwood scored by one-and-three-quarter lengths from the Nigel Twiston-Davies trained Arturo Uno.

The Dunraven Welsh Foxhunters' Chase went to Chloe

Roddick's Sericina who was winning for the fourth consecutive time. Last year's winner, Beth Roberts' Chesnut Annie, was a surprise non-starter.

Meanwhile, the first of the two Curra and Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases take place at Howick, near Chepstow, on Sunday (February 27), first race 12pm and 24 hours earlier, Chepstow Racecourse stage their countryside race day.

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195/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£54.24	£191	£389

FROM £31.04

Example	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
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195/70R13 Here	£32.04	£66	£117
195/70R14 Here	£36.04	£66	£123
195/70R14 Here	£38.04	£70	£133

PERFORMANCE TYRES

Example	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£63.24	£112	£209
195/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£70.24	£133	£255
195/70R15 Bridgestone B250	£79.24	£152	£291
195/70R15 Bridgestone B250	£87.24	£128	£245

FROM £37.33

Example	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/70R14 Here	£38.24	£70	£133
195/70R14 Here	£37.24	£69	£131
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195/70R15 Here	£44.24	£82	£153

HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES

Example	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/70R15 Bridgestone B250	£57.24	£107	£203
195/70R15 Bridgestone B250	£63.24	£132	£286
195/70R15 Bridgestone B250	£68.24	£128	£245
205/50R16 Bridgestone B250	£78.24	£148	£281

FROM £41.83

Example	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
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Example	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
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195/70R15 Bridgestone B250	£84.24	£158	£281
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195/70R15 Bridgestone B250	£143.24	£276	£531

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Example	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
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225/45R17 Here	£55.24	£104	£203



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GEM sport

CONFIDENCE, CONTROL, AND ERROR-COUNT KEY IN ROME

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

THERE was a time when Italian rugby was viewed as a gritty but limited young upstart on the international scene – to be indulgently patted on the head, but not to be taken too seriously by the game's big boys – and to a certain extent this perception still holds true today.

The image was fed by periodic defeats of often epic proportions over the years, with Italy (more usually seen as a passionate football nation) on a long and painful learning curve after rugby union first took root there in the late 1920s.

However, the Azzurri (the Blues) have slowly gained world respect with a hard-won reputation for producing rugged packs more than able to hold their own against the most formidable of opposition, even if this is not always mirrored in their back play.

In 1997, they proved that they could no longer be taken lightly, particularly at home, with stunning victories over France and Ireland, and then showed this was no fluke by lifting Scotland's scalp in 1998.

The following year they were brought back to earth in Treviso with a 60-12 defeat by Wales, but had clearly shown they were a growing force to be reckoned with and in 2000 deservedly won admission to what became the Six Nations.

On February 15, 2003 in Rome, it was Wales' turn to be humiliated when Italy were roared on to a 30-12 victory in a notorious match remembered for the Colin Charvis 'smile' on camera, after the then Welsh captain was substituted.

(He has since insisted it was merely a sardonic reaction to the score-line, but it nevertheless caused outrage among fans shocked by the heavy defeat, to Italy of all teams!)

Wales did get partial revenge some months later with a 27-15 win in Canberra, which opened the way to the quarter finals of the 2003 World Cup, but like the rest of the home nations, they knew that victory could no longer be taken for granted against the steadily-improving Italians.

Indeed, on March 11, 2006 the unthinkable almost happened when Wales were held to a nail-biting 18-18 draw on home soil in Cardiff – and then, almost exactly one year to the day, Italy secured a narrow victory by 23-20 in Rome.

In just 14 encounters between the two countries since 1996, the record book now reads: Wales 11 wins, Italy 2, with one match drawn. On only two occasions have Italy been limited to a single figure total, with

their forward-oriented power game invariably yielding a respectable points haul.

So the warning for the Welsh team is clear as they head for Rome this weekend buoyed by the win over Scotland, but still struggling for form, and heedful of how close Ireland came to a shock defeat in Rome three weeks ago, saved only by the boot of O'Gara in the dying seconds.

After the Welsh team's victory in Scotland, head coach Warren Gatland had been expected to say 'same again' against Italy when he announced the team on Tuesday.

James Hook's virtuoso display in Edinburgh had seemingly assured him of a second start in the position he has always craved to fill, but had been thwarted by his region's short-sighted refusal to see him in that role.

(That was a decision the exodus-hit Ospreys camp will surely come to regret if, as expected, he blossoms in France and becomes the unquestioned heir-apparent to stalwart incumbent Stephen Jones after the World Cup).

Unfortunately, the Welsh squad's injury jinx struck again this week, when Jonathan Davies was forced to withdraw. It means the versatile Hook will now win his 50th cap at centre, with Jones regaining the No 10 shirt.

This one enforced change should in no way weaken the Welsh line-up, but before the talented threequarters can be unleashed, Wales will need to build on the vastly-improved pack display in Edinburgh and subdue, or at least contain, the Italian eight (no easy task).

Confidence and control (in more ways than one!) could be the key, but providing the frustrating errors and indiscipline that have marred recent outings are eliminated, this Welsh team is surely capable of overcoming an Italian side still shell-shocked from the crushing defeat imposed by England two weeks ago.

So long as they don't forget what happened in 2003 and 2007!

WALES TEAM

Lee Byrne (Ospreys); Morgan Stoddart (Scarlets); James Hook (Ospreys); Jamie Roberts (Blues); Shane Williams (Ospreys); Stephen Jones (Scarlets); Mike Phillips (Ospreys); Paul James (Ospreys); Matthew Rees (Scarlets, capt); Craig Mitchell (Ospreys); Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys); Bradley Davies (Blues); Dan Lydiate (Dragons); Sam Warburton (Blues); R. Jones (Ospreys). Replacements: R. Hibbard (Ospreys); J. Yapp (Blues); J. Thomas (Ospreys); Josh Turnbull (Scarlets); Tavis Knoyle (Scarlets); Leigh Halfpenny (Blues); Rhys Priestland (Scarlets).

Llantwit Major climb high to claim line-out ball, but it was Barry RFC who ended the league leader's 100 per cent record.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN PREECE

BARRY 34
LLANTWIT 9



Barry end Llantwit's 100 per cent league record!

ON a day perfect for rugby, Barry entertained their near neighbours at the Reservoir Field.

Llantwit Major arrived as leaders of the division and boasted an unbeaten record for the season.

The home team played up the slope in the first half and against a slight breeze. Very soon the visitors showed they have such an enviable record.

Forwards re-cycled the ball efficiently, while their backs moved the ball wide and began to look threatening.

Within 10 minutes of the start, they deservedly went ahead with two well-struck penalty goals from distance.

Things got worse for Barry with their full-back being given a yellow card for targeting an opponent who was not in possession of the ball.

This was the signal for the Barry forwards to take up where they had left off against Rhiwbina in their last fixture.

The home eight (seven for 10 minutes), with Hadfield and George to the fore, started to exert pressure on the Llantwit pack, which meant that their backs were left to feed on scraps. Even this meagre fare had to be used by a side going backwards.

These tactics bore fruit as the visitors conceded a penalty, kicked by Cummings. After another period of first-class rucking, Barry were back on terms with another penalty.

After half an hour, Barry went ahead with a

try, made for Busittil by the forwards, with the Jones boys in the van.

Five minutes later, the home side went further ahead through a long range try from Hadfield, which was a result of determined running from 30 metres out.

The main features of the remainder of the half were good aggressive tackling, powerful play at ruck and mau, and efficient kicking out of hand. These tactics, a credit to coaches and players alike, sapped the energy of the visitors.

The second half started as the first had ended, with the home pack continuing to get the better of exchanges against a side which appeared to have become dispirited.

It was a pleasure to see the basics carried out with accuracy, with a clear plan of action followed by every member of the Barry team.

This included the following up of any kick ahead by a line of would-be tacklers, rather than relying on singletons.

Inevitably, there were some blemishes on the performance and one came in unusual circumstances. Winger West was laid low by a particularly needless late high tackle by one of the Llantwit backs, which inevitably led to a straight red card for the offender.

However, the referee had spotted retaliation from the Barry captain, who received a yellow card and the penalty was reversed.

This penalty was successful for what was to be the last score for the visitors.

With the Barry front row now getting in on the act and producing good tight possession, the three-quarters and full-back produced the try of the day.

Good attacking play by Ryan set up Provis to score near the posts and make the conversion an easy task.

At this juncture the visitors' captain saw red and the referee saw yellow. With Gill and Hunt leading the onslaught on the Llantwit defence, a gap appeared in the defence for Cummings to cross for the fourth and bonus try, which he also

converted.

A very efficient and satisfying display by both players and coaches!

The next match is away to Tonyrefail on Saturday, March 5.

Barry team: Ryan, West, Walsh, Busittil, Provis, Cummings, Lee, G Jones, O'Sullivan, Hunt, Degaura, H Jones, Gill, Hadfield, George. Subs: Elsworth, Evans, King, Gallowan.

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